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1. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial (RFK Memorial) seeks to promote respect for justice, human rights and the rule of law. It works to accomplish these aims through several programmes. The RFK Book and Journalism Awards recognize authors and journalists, print and broadcast, whose work reflects Robert Kennedy's "concern for the poor and powerless, his struggle for honest and even-handed justice". The RFK National Youth Project works to empower youth in American cities as leaders of their communities and encourages them to cooperate to reduce violence in their neighbourhoods. The RFK Human Rights Award honours individuals who stand up to oppression in the non-violent pursuit of respect for human rights.

The RFK Memorial Centre for Human Rights (the RFK Centre) carries out projects that support, complement or enhance the human rights work of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates and promote respect for human rights in their countries. The RFK Centre investigates and publishes reports on human rights conditions and campaigns to heighten awareness of these issues and to stop abuses, and encourages Governments, international organizations and corporations to adopt policies that ensure respect for international human rights. Through its relationships with the Award laureates, the organizations with which they are affiliated and other activists in their countries, the RFK Centre strives to enhance their capacity, to help marshal the resources necessary for them to work more effectively, to increase the impact of their work and to share the lessons from their experience with the international human rights community.

The RFK Memorial is not a membership organization. It has an International Advisory Committee, currently composed of 70 members from throughout the world, who nominate candidates for the RFK Human Rights Award. The continents and countries represented by International Advisory Committee members are:

> *Africa*: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Zimbabwe; *Americas*: Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, United States of America; *Asia and the Middle East*: Cambodia, India, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka; *Europe*: Czech Republic, Finland, France, Netherlands, Poland, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; *Other*: Australia

For the Memorial's human rights work, its core constituency is made up of the RFK Human Rights Award laureates, with whom the Centre develops a close, collaborative relationship. The continents and countries of the Award laureates are:

> *Africa*: Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, the Sudan; *Americas*: El Salvador, Guatemala; *Asia and the Middle East*: China, India, Indonesia, Israel, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam; *Europe*: Poland, Turkey.

There have been no substantial changes in the Memorial's funding sources. It continues to receive the bulk of its support from private contributions and fundraising events. It also receives support from foundations. The domestic National

Youth Project has received grants from the American Government for its work. The RFK Centre does not accept government funding for its work. It did receive a grant of $8,000 in 1997 from the United States Agency for International Development; the entire amount directly supported an internship that the RFK Centre organized in the United States for a young Haitian attorney who manages the Guy Malary Law Library, which the RFK Centre helped to establish within Haiti's National Library.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations activities

The RFK Memorial has participated each year since 1994 in the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The RFK Memorial presented the following statements at or in conjunction with those sessions:

Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session, 1994

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 1995

Written statement on the draft declaration on human rights defenders, submitted to the pre-sessional working group on the draft declaration on human rights defenders;

Oral statement on human rights violations and national security laws;

Oral statement on United Nations advisory services and human rights monitoring.

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 1996

Written statement on human rights violations and national security laws.

The RFK Centre also participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995. The RFK Centre presented two workshops for the Non-Governmental Organization Forum participants on international advocacy of human rights, particularly women's rights. The Centre worked before and during the Conference to enhance the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Conference and prepared a report detailing problems encountered at the Women's Conference and the NGO Forum and recommending steps for the United Nations and Governments to take to assure enhanced NGO participation in future United Nations meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies and other relevant activities

The RFK Centre has cooperated with a number of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights. The RFK Centre has submitted three cases concerning Chinese prisoners to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which communicated two of these cases to the Government of the People's Republic of China as urgent appeals. The RFK Centre has also provided reports and other information regarding human rights issues in China, Guatemala, Kenya, Indonesia and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Independent expert on the situation of human rights in Guatemala and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967.

In 1995 and 1996, while the RFK Centre was carrying out research for the 1996 report, Civil Patrols and their Legacy, Overcoming Militarization and Polarization in the Guatemalan Countryside, the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) provided invaluable assistance and advice. The RFK Centre has continued to cooperate with MINUGUA.

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights office in Malawi provided assistance and some funding for the conference, "Understanding the Past to Safeguard the Future", organized by the University of Malawi and the RFK Centre, in Lilongwe, Malawi, in October 1996. As a result of the Centre for Human Rights' assistance, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Bacre Waly N'diaye, participated in the conference. Following the conference, the representative of the Centre, Mr. N'diaye and the RFK Centre participated in a half-day meeting with the entire Malawi National Compensation Tribunal in Blantyre.

The RFK Centre has also consulted extensively with the United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) on the Centre-initiated project that led to the establishment of the Guy Malary Law Library in Port-au-Prince.

2. Society for Threatened Peoples

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

Introduction

The Society for Threatened Peoples is an international human rights organization with national sections in Germany (approx. 7,200 members), Luxembourg (approx. 120 members), Italy (approx. 20 members), South-Tyrol (150 members), Austria (approx. 600 members). Switzerland (approx. 800 members) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (approx. 200 members). The main focus of our work is the fight against genocide and discrimination against cultures, languages and religions of threatened minorities and nationalities through the use of press releases, conferences, vigils, talks with parliamentarians and politicians. We make information available for the media and try to attract the attention of the international public. Our archive has directories on several hundred threatened groups and minorities; it is one of the largest documentation centres of this kind in Europe.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1994

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 18 to 29 July 1994, Geneva (12 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-sixth session 1 to 26 August 1994, Geneva (2 persons)

One oral statement on the situation of the Kanaka Maoli, Hawaii

International Conference on Population and Development, 5 to 13 September 1994, Cairo (1 person)

1995

Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, third session, 16 to 27 January 1995, New York (3 persons)

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, 30 January to 10 March 1995, Geneva (25 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

World Summit for Social Development, 6 to 12 March 1995, Copenhagen (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-eighth session, 14 to 23 March 1995, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Bolivia

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 28 March to 7 April 1995, Berlin (2 persons)

Economic and Social Council, substantive session, 6 June to 28 July 1995, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-seventh session, 31 July to 25 August 1995, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Crimean Tartars (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Chittagong Hill People (India)

Oral statement on the human rights violations against the Ogoni People (Nigeria)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 17 to 28 July 1995, Geneva (8 persons)

1996

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-second session, 18 March to 26 April 1996, Geneva (20 persons)

Oral statement on freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 18)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Chechnya (Russian Federation, item 10)

Oral statement on the self-determination of indigenous people in general (item 7)

Oral statement on the draft declaration on rights of indigenous peoples

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, thirty-ninth session, 16 to 25 April 1996, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Cocoa cultivation, international agreements and anti-drug legislation" (Bolivia)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-eighth session, July/August 1996 (4 weeks), Geneva (10 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, fourteenth session, July 1996 (1 week), Geneva (30 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous minorities in India in general

1997

Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session, 10 March to 18 April 1997, Geneva (26 persons)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Tibet (China)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Bougainville (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Assam (India)

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the Caucasian minority (Russian Federation)

Oral statement on the human rights situation in Nagomo-Bergkarabach

Written statement on the human rights situation in Tibet

Commission on Narcotic Drugs, fortieth session, 18 to 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Oral statement on the meaning of the traditional cultivation of cocoa for the indigenous population in Colombia

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances and related activities, first meeting, 26 and 27 March 1997, Vienna (2 persons)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, 20 to 29 May 1997, Geneva (1 person)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, first informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 July 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Biodiversity and the politics of drugs"

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, 4 to 29 August 1997, Geneva (21 persons)

Oral statement on the situation of the indigenous people in India

Oral statement on the human rights situation of the South Molukkans (Indonesia)

Oral statement on the struggle for self-determination of the Nagas (India)

Two oral statements on the human rights situation in Tibet

Written statement on the question of freedom of religion in Tibet (China, item 11)

Commission on Human Rights — Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities — Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 28 July to 1 August 1997, Geneva (9 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, second informal open-ended meeting, 7 to 9 October 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral Statement on the theme "Human rights and drug politics in Peru"

Human Rights Committee — Intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 27 October to 7 November 1997 (7 persons)

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — seventh session of the subsidiary body for implementation, 20 to 29 October 1997, Bonn (3 persons)

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, third informal open-ended meeting, 3 to 5 December 1997, Vienna (3 persons)

Oral statement on the theme "Drugs and alternative development in Colombia"

Other relevant activities

Activities of the Society for Threatened Peoples in relation to the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:

Events marking the opening of the International Decade in Bonn and Berlin in December 1994, including reception by the President of the German Parliament, the organization of a press conference as well as a podium discussion.

Political and financial support of the self-organization of the Adivasi indigenous group, advising the Adivasi representatives at the United Nations in Geneva (at the session of the Commission on Human Rights).

Campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention 169 by Germany and other Western European States.

3. Women's International Zionist Organization

(Special consultative status granted 1959)

Introductory statement

The Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO) is an international voluntary movement of 300,000 women with federations in 52 countries. Since it was founded more than 75 years ago, it has provided services to children, women, families and society, regardless of their race or religious affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or other United Nations meetings

During the past four years, WIZO multiplied its efforts to ensure implementation, both in spirit and in the letter, of the objectives of the United Nations forward-looking strategies and to fulfil the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action, to safeguard the full equality of women. WIZO has insisted on the creation of full and equal opportunities for women to develop their talents and creative abilities and to facilitate their involvement in the process of development. WIZO has promoted, throughout its federations, educational programmes of friendship and mutual cooperation and exchanges in the achievement of peace. In the past four years, a major concern for WIZO has been to develop services geared specifically to women in the throes of family violence through the creation of legal advice bureaux and shelters for battered women and their children. Towards the advancement of the status of women, WIZO opened additional day-care centres, pedagogic and therapeutic centres. WIZO also opened additional youth clubs, including some in Arab villages.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and the specialized agencies

Since its establishment, WIZO's main efforts have been dedicated to the welfare of children and adolescents. WIZO applauded the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially the new rights that appear for the first time in an international human rights document, such as consideration of a child's ethnic, religious or linguistic

heritage when providing alternative family care. WIZO federations have continued to actively support the work of UNICEF. WIZO organized seminars and other events to strengthen families in ways that increase equality, mutual respect and responsibilities, while taking into account and respecting existing family structures.

Other relevant activities

WIZO has set up the Committee for the Advancement of Women in Politics, the aim of which is to have more women involved in politics by encouraging them to stand for municipal elections.

Action in Implementation of United Nations resolutions: dissemination of information: WIZO encourages the dissemination of information on United Nations bodies among its federations. Visits and tours to the United Nations building have been organized throughout the years.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: WIZO attendance at United Nations meetings in New York and Geneva: WIZO representatives have attended and/or held consultations with members of the following United Nations bodies or agencies:

Commission on the Status of Women, Vienna, New York;

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva;

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva;

Third Committee sessions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Economic and Social Council sessions, New York, and Geneva;

UNICEF Executive Board meetings in New York.

WIZO representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna regularly attend:

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

Weekly briefings of the Department of Public Information for the non-governmental organization community in New York;

Meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNICEF;

Non-Governmental Organizations committee on the United Nations Women's Decade, New York;

Annual conference of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations for Non-Governmental Organizations.

Consultative activities: 1994-1997

Prior to the extended session of the United nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, WIZO participated in all non-governmental organizations consultative meetings and also in the meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

WIZO participated at the non-governmental organizations meetings in Beijing 1995, in Huairou, China, and in the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995.

In Huairou, China, (August-September 1995), WIZO organized five workshops on cooperation with international women's organizations such as the International Business and Professional Women and the International Alliance of Women.

These workshops were successful and focused on the following topics:

Ageing;

Prevention of domestic violence;

Equality (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women);

Voluntarism and empowering women through parenting education.

Regional meetings and conferences

1994
Nordic Forum, Turku, Finland;

Regional preparatory conference and the regional non-governmental organizations forum for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mar del Plata, Argentina;

Regional non-governmental organizations forum for Europe, Vienna;

The European Council of WIZO Federations is represented at all meetings and sessions of the European Women's Lobby.

1995
WIZO is a member of the National Committees for UNICEF and participates in UNICEF fundraising campaigns;

WIZO was represented at the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen;

WIZO was represented by a large delegation at the Non-Governmental Organizations Forum and at the fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

1997
WIZO participated in the seventh United Nations regional conference (ECLAC) held in Santiago, Chile.

4. Christian Democratic International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence

of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

5. African Society of International and Comparative Law

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The African Society of International and Comparative Law was established in 1986 as a result of the feeling by some African lawyers that there is the need to form an association in order to learn from each other and to come to understand each other's systems (the common law and the civil law) better. It was also felt that there was need to coordinate efforts to enhance the African contribution to international law and to promote respect and understanding for international law. The Society is a non-political and non-governmental organization and now has a worldwide membership of about 2,000. There have been no changes in the Society's status as a non-governmental organization.

Activities since 1995

In order to achieve its aims, the Society has been conducting several projects. The relevant ones are described below.

The Society's representative in Geneva participated in several meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in 1997 and 1998.

The Society's annual conference, held in an African country, is always communicated to the United Nations Secretary-General who usually sends a representative. In 1995 the theme of the annual conference was "The contribution of the United Nations and its agencies to the maintenance of international peace". The then Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The 1997 annual conference was held in Abidjan, and the Secretary-General was represented by Ambassador Dinka. At the 1998 annual conference, held in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General was represented by the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa. The Secretary-General sent a goodwill message to the 1999 annual conference.

Publications

In order to promote the activities of the United Nations and its agencies, the Society includes documents and articles on the United Nations in its publications.

The African Journal of International and Comparative Law, is the first bilingual (English/ French) legal journal in Africa and is in its eleventh year of publication. Samples of articles published in the *Journal* are given below.

1995

"The Preamble to the United Nations Charter: the Contribution of Jan Smuts", by Christof Heyns (vol. 7, 1995, p. 329); "Le respect du principe de non-intervention par les forces de maintien de la paix des Nations Unies (Cas de l'ONUC et l'ONUSOM)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 7, 1995, p. 158); "Reform of the United Nations system in the context of the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development", by J. S. Warioba (vol. 7, 1995, p. 426); Economic and Social Council: resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its Fifty-first Session on Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi and Rwanda (vol. 7, 1995, p. 189); "Agreement relating to the implementation of part XI of the Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 445); "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 683); International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 7, 1995, p. 693); Security Council resolutions 997 (1995), 1011 (1995), and 1013 (1995) (vol. 7, 1995).

1996

"La mission des Nations Unies pour l'assistance au Rwanda (1993-1996)", par Mutoy Mubiala (vol. 8, 1996, p. 393); "Fiftieth anniversary of the International Court of Justice", by H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali (vol. 8, 1996, p. 539); "La place de la Cour internationale de justice dans le système général de maintien de la paix institué par la Charte des Nations Unies", par Mohammed Bedjaoui (vol. 8, 1996, p. 541); "1996 and all that: the South-West African judgment revisted in the East Timor case", by John Dugard (vol. 8, 1996, p. 549); "Decolonisation in the

International Court of Justice", by Shabtai Rosenne (vol. 8, 1996, p. 564); "The role of the International Court of Justice in the maintenance of international peace", by Dapo Akande (vol. 8, 1996, p. 592).

1997

"L'ONU et la protection des droits de l'homme", par J. D. Dougan-Beacá (vol. 9, 1997, p. 311); "General Assembly resolution 51/59, on action against corruption" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 677); "General Assembly resolution 51/191, containing the Declaration Against Corruption and Bribery in International Business Transactions" (vol. 9, 1997, p. 685).

1998

United Nations, "Report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" (vol. 10, p. 549); International Tribunal for Rwanda, "Rules of procedure and evidence" (vol. 10, p. 767); "The Prosecutor v. Jean Kambanda" (vol. 10, p. 836); Tenth annual conference, Addis Ababa, 3-5 August 1998. Theme: "The OAU at 35: achievements and prospects".

1999

Security Council, "Statement of the President on Somalia" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 211); "Les mesures prises par le Conseil de Sécurité contre les entités non-étatiques", par Farid Wahid Dahmane (vol. 11, 1999, p. 227); "International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: some comments on the M/V Saiga case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 333); "The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: summary of the judgment in the Jean-Paul Akayesu case" (vol. 11, 1999, p. 336).

6. Transnational Radical Party

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The Transnational Radical Party (TRP) is a non-violent international political organization founded in 1955.

Since its affiliation with the Council, TRP has followed issues related to human rights, international drug trafficking, international criminal law and linguistic rights at sessions of several United Nations Commissions, such as the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Relations with other international non-governmental organizations

Since 1998, TRP has been a member of the Conference on Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), and recently was among the founders of the New York Non-governmental Organization Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. TRP is also a member of the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse. During the past four years TRP has collaborated with several other non-

governmental organizations promoting the establishment of informal networks and coalitions to better educate the public on the work of the United Nations and to optimize joint activities regarding specific issues. In 1995, TRP was among the founders of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, and in 1997, it promoted the creation of the Coalition for an International Language. Both coalitions produce newsletters and participate in United Nations activities related to their mandates.

Participation in United Nations Commissions

Commission on Human Rights

At the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions TRP delivered written and oral statements on a variety of items, including the question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms; violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the rights of the child; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; indigenous issues; and conscientious objection to military service.

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

At the forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions, TRP delivered written or oral statements on the following items: the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories; freedom of movement: population displacements; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the realization of the right to development; the human rights of women; the human rights of indigenous peoples; protection of minorities; administration of justice and the human rights of detainees; and elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion and belief.

Commission on the Status of Women

At the forty-second session TRP delivered statements on the Beijing Platform for Action and women in armed conflict.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as Preparatory Body for the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

TRP presented written and oral statements on the following: measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs; promotion of judicial cooperation; the fight against money-laundering; and the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

Committee on Non-governmental Organizations

TRP submitted a proposal for an agenda item on eventual experimentation of an international auxiliary language at the June 1996 session.

Participation in other United Nations conferences and forums

TRP sent accredited representatives to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) (3-14 June 1996).

TRP circulated literature on its United Nations-related activities to the fiftieth and fifty-first annual DPI/NGO Conferences.

At the special session of the General Assembly on Drugs, TRP delivered a statement. It also took active part in all non-governmental activities such as panel discussions and round tables on drug-related issues and distributed a 20-page briefing paper.

TRP attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Other relevant activities

To better achieve its objectives TRP has launched several ad hoc campaigns aimed at targeting civil society, the media, and decision makers all over the world. Its major United Nations-related campaigns were "No Peace Without Justice", for issues concerning the establishment of an effective system of international criminal justice, and "Hands Off Cain", for the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution on an international moratorium of capital executions. The final stages of the "No Peace Without Justice" campaign were a series of international conferences held in various capitals of the world to urge international support for the proposed court. In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in the work of the Conference on an International Criminal Court, inexpensive fares and special accommodation rates were found for delegates from the least developed countries and some 30 young experts in international law and international humanitarian law were enabled to participate in the various working groups. During the Conference, TRP organized a series of public events.

TRP operates a web site (www.radicalparty.org) containing the latest action alerts, TRP's position papers and news on the different issues set by its congressional motions.

7. International Association for Religious Freedom

(General consultative status granted in 1995)

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) was founded in 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through interfaith understanding and cooperation. At the end of 1998 IARF had 80 member groups, 10 national chapters, and individual members in 35 countries. The programmes of the IARF include community service and development projects, conferences, publications, and the work of its representations at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. These

activities have been planned and supervised by regional offices in New York, Calcutta, Manila, and Tokyo and by the international secretariat in Oxford, England.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

In 1995 IARF was represented at the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human rights by Professor Frank Field, and from 1996 the IARF was represented at those bodies in Geneva by Dr. Gianfranco Rossi. From 1995-1998 IARF had between five and seven representatives attending briefings and various committee meetings in New York.

IARF supported the development of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which has been active in New York at the United Nations since 1992. An IARF representative assisted Professor Amor, Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance, when he came to the United States to hold hearings. IARF was one of several non-governmental organizations to make a presentation at the hearing in New York.

IARF led the effort in promoting designation by the General Assembly of an Annual International Day for Freedom of Religion or Belief. Twenty-three non-governmental organizations, including IARF, submitted a joint proposal to the Commission on Human Rights. Since 1994 the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief has co-sponsored, with the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations and the International NGO Committee of Human Rights, the Values Caucus, an annual day for freedom of religion or belief. IARF representatives have always played a major part in planning and carrying out these programmes. The Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance spoke at the 1995 and 1998 events, and the General Secretary of IARF also spoke at the 1998 event.

In 1995 several IARF representatives attended and actively participated in the Fourth World Conference on Women. That same year the IARF General Secretary delivered a speech to the Values Caucus in January as part of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development. The General Secretary also spoke at the United Nations on 25 October 1995 at a meeting sponsored by the Committee of Religious NGOs. In 1998 the IARF General Secretary and IARF representatives Sue Nichols and Dr. Gianfranco Rossi each made a presentation at the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which was held in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Since 1996 Dr. Rossi has been representing IARF at the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. He has regularly intervened on behalf of victims of religious persecution and intolerance. These interventions are posted on the IARF web site. His interventions made at the Commission on Human Rights in 1996-1998 included statements on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, and implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Interventions were made at the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (1996-1998) on the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all countries, the prevention of discrimination against and the protection of minorities, the implementation of human rights with regard to women, and the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (1997, 34th meeting; 1998, 30th meeting).

Promotion of the United Nations

IARF World is published twice a year and distributed to more than 2,000 households and institutions. Specific articles supporting the United Nations covered the following subjects: religion and human rights in Europe; the special programme for non-governmental organizations at the United Nations sponsored by the Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief; the IARF initiative in Pakistan; religious freedom in Romania; the International Criminal Court; the sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, discrimination in Saudi Arabia, and the persecution of religious minorities, in particular the Pandits, in Kashmir.

In 1996 IARF held its triennial Congress in Iksan, the Republic of Korea. The programme included reports by IARF representatives to the United Nations on their work in support of human rights. Those reports were included in the published *Proceedings* of the Congress and were also made available in 1998 on the web site of IARF. IARF also uses its web site to report on human rights law concerning religious freedom; it has links with United Nations sites and other human rights web sites.

8. National Wildlife Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is to educate, inspire and assist individuals and organizations of diverse cultures to conserve wildlife and other natural resources and to protect the earth's environment in order to achieve a peaceful, equitable and sustainable future.

The National Wildlife Federation is the largest conservation education organization in the United States, with 4.5 million members and supporters located throughout the United States, but with additional individual members and supporters in 175 other countries. Through research, publications, litigation, volunteer training and public education, the National Wildlife Federation seeks to prepare for the environmental challenges of the coming century. Through its international programmes NWF maintains a dialogue with non-governmental organizations, government agencies, multilateral bodies and concerned individuals worldwide on the key topics of environmental protection and sustainable development. The National Wildlife Federation is a non-governmental, non-profit, tax-exempt conservation organization operating under the laws of the United States.

There have been no substantial changes since the last report in geographical membership, sources of funding or affiliation to international non-governmental organizations in consultative status.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and meetings

1995. NWF mobilized activists nationwide to write over 4,000 letters and make hundreds of phone calls to the United States Congress in favour of appropriating funds for United Nations activities in sustainable development, including UNFPA, UNEP, UNDP and others. NWF held a major conference,

Accounting for the Environment, aimed at promoting the methodology of natural resources accounting, for Governments and the Bretton Woods institutions. Staff of the United Nations Statistical Division participated.

NWF's Director of International Programs led the organization's delegation to the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the inter-sessional meeting, making a number of oral statements on behalf of non-governmental organizations in the informal meetings and at press events arranged by the United Nations Department of Public Information. NWF also participated in the NGO Steering Committee for the Commission.

In 1995 NWF presented its highest award, the Conservation Achievement Award, to Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

1996. During the inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the National Wildlife Federation convened two evening panel discussions on new financial resources and mechanisms for funding sustainable development. The first featured the Chairman of the Commission. United Nations officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of the Government of the Netherlands; the second featured the ambassadors from Thailand and Guyana, officials of the United Nations and independent experts. Several representatives of the National Wildlife Federation attended the fourth session of the Commission. NWF's Director of International Programs presented a paper on the future of the Commission, as an NGO panellist (along with the Chairmen of the first three sessions of the Commission) during the high-level segment. This was in preparation for the fifth session and the special session of the General Assembly to be held the following year.

Also during the fourth session of the Commission, NWF's Population and Environment Program Coordinator arranged for a well-attended NGO briefing on alternative waste management technologies that benefit women and children.

The Director of NWF's International Programs participated in the second International UNEP Meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in London.

1997. NWF's Director of International Programs participated in the Fourth Expert Meeting on Financing for Agenda 21, in Santiago, Chile. The Director also contributed a chapter called "Financial resources for the transition to sustainable development" to the book *The Way Forward: Beyond Agenda 21* (Earthscan, 1997) which promoted public understanding of the progress and promise of the Commission and the five years since the Rio Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development).

During the fifth session of the Commission, working with many governmental and non-governmental delegations, NWF promoted a proposal for the establishment of a special intergovernmental panel on finance to break the impasse between countries of the North and South which was impeding implementation of Agenda 21. This proposal was taken up in debate during the special session of the General Assembly, and the NWF International Director worked with governmental delegations to further the proposal, though in the end it was not adopted.

The National Wildlife Federation sent delegations to both the special session and to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

NWF's International Programs Director was a plenary speaker at the third international UNEP Meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in New York.

1998. The National Wildlife Federation developed a programme on climate change and wildlife, specifically designed to build a constituency in the United States for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Coordinator of NWF's Program on Finance and the Environment participated in the fourth UNEP meeting on Finance and the Environment, held in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Prior to the UNEP meeting, NWF organized the first NGO World Bank round table, bringing together leading international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations to discuss environmental issues and to identify areas of common interest.

Throughout the quadrennium, NWF lobbied the United States Congress in favour of expanded United States participation in the United Nations; for high levels of voluntary contributions to the special agencies of the United Nations system which have a bearing on population, the environment and sustainable development; for full United States funding to fulfil the commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development; and for payment of United States arrears to the United Nations.

9. Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities

The Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI) is a non-profit international municipal organization whose main purpose is to foster a moral environment that will be a model of peaceful coexistence and supportive development and to strengthen awareness in order to promote greater understanding and cooperation among Ibero-American peoples.

The member cities of UCCI are: Asunción, Barcelona, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Guatemala City, Havana, La Paz, Lima, Lisbon, Madrid, Managua, Mexico City, Montevideo, Panama City, Rio de Janeiro, San José (Costa Rica), San Juan (Puerto Rico), San Franciso de Quito, Sante Fe de Bogotá, San Salvador, Santiago (Chile), Santo Domingo, São Paulo, Sucre and Tegucigalpa.

According to its Statutes, the Union's goals are to:

(a) Foster links, relations and exchanges of all kinds between the Ibero-American capital cities;

(b) Consider all the issues that affect the life, activities and problems of member municipalities;

(c) Promote the rights of neighbourhood and, in particular, the right to peaceful progress and the right of citizens to participate in public affairs and in the ever-widening sphere of international relations;

(d) Encourage harmonious and balanced development of Ibero-American capital cities, striving for solidarity and cooperation between them;

(e) Organize meetings and activities to foster the effective exchange of knowledge particularly in the economic, cultural, technical, professional and tourist sectors.

Between 1994 and 1997, representatives of UCCI attended the following meetings:

(a) Meeting of International Associations of Cities and Local Authorities, New York, August 1994;

(b) International Mayors' Forum on Social Development, New York, August 1994;

(c) Third Conference of the Latin American Network of National Town Council Associations, Córdoba, Argentina, November 1994;

(d) Preparatory meeting for Habitat II, Rio de Janeiro, June 1995;

(e) Second preparatory meeting of the Latin American Network of Town Council Associations for Habitat II, Santiago, November 1995;

(f) Third Conference of Local Government Associations and Networks, in preparation for Habitat II, New York, February 1996;

(g) World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, Istanbul, May 1996;

(h) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements "City Summit" Habitat II, Istanbul, June 1996;

(i) Seventh meeting of the Network of Latin American Municipalities and Cities and the Executive Committee of the Latin American Chapter of IULA, Miami, November 1996;

(j) Meeting of Mayors and Senior Municipal Officials of Latin America and the Caribbean on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Rio de Janeiro, October 1997.

Activities organized by UCCI

1994

Sixth plenary assembly, Lisbon, September

Eighteenth Executive Committee, Rio de Janeiro, May

Nineteenth Executive Committee, Lisbon, September

Sixth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, San José, April

Seventh Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Havana, July

Eighth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Managua, December

Eighth Committee on Culture, Lisbon, April

Ninth Committee on Culture, San Juan, October

Sixth Committee on Tourism, Rio de Janeiro, March

Fifth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Asunción, September

Fourth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, October

Meeting on Marginal Districts, Quito, September

Second Meeting of Ibero-American Municipal Firefighters, Madrid, October

Third International Seminar on Municipal Policies, Madrid, December

Seventh Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, June (1st phase) and November (2nd phase)

Ibero-American Capital of Culture 1994, Lisbon

1995

Twentieth Executive Committee, Madrid, March

Twenty-first Executive Committee, Asunción, October

Fifth Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Asunción, March

Tenth Committee on Culture, Montevideo, September

Seventh Committee on Tourism, Asunción, March

Second Committee on Computer Science and Municipal Statistics, Brasilia, September

Sixth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Rio de Janeiro, October

Second Committee on the Environment, Rio de Janeiro, October

First Committee on Social Development, Montevideo, August

Ibero-American Conference of Mayors of Capital Cities, "The Role of Municipalities in the Management of Transport and Development", Santiago, October

Eighth Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, March (1st phase) and November (2nd phase)

Fifth Ibero-American Photography prizes, Madrid, October

Fourth Municipal Investigation prizes, Madrid, October

Second Video prizes, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1995, Managua

1996

Seventh plenary assembly, Mexico City, November

Twenty-second Executive Committee, San Juan, April

Twenty-third Executive Committee, Mexico City, November

Ninth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Tegucigalpa, February

Tenth Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, San Juan, April

Sixth Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Asunción, March

Eleventh Committee on Culture, Montevideo, November

Eighth Committee on Tourism, Havana, September

Seventh Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Madrid, June

Second Committee on Social Development, Quito, October

First Committee on Economic Development, Tegucigalpa, February

First Committee on Decentralization, Administrative Regionalization and Public Services, Lima, September

Fifth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, July

Third Meeting of Ibero-American Municipal Firefighters, Santiago, August

Meeting of International Relations Officials in Ibero-American Capitals regarding the Future of the European Union, Madrid, July

International Seminar on Decentralization and Local Government, Lima, September

Ninth Ibero-American International Training Programme, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1996, Montevideo

1997

Twenty-fourth Executive Committee, Tegucigalpa, April

Twenty-fifth Executive Committee, Santo Domingo, October

Eleventh Meeting of Mayors of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Tegucigalpa, April

Seventh Meeting of Southern Cone Mayors, Buenos Aires, May

Twelfth Committee on Culture, Havana, July

Ninth Committee on Tourism, Buenos Aires, May

Eighth Committee on Security and Municipal Police, Panama, November

Third Committee on the Environment, Quito, April

Third Committee on Social Development, Brasilia, June

Second Committee on Economic Development, Santo Domingo, April

Second Committee on Decentralization, Ica (Peru), August

First Committee on Transit and Transport, Caracas, November

Sixth Seminar on Urban Development, Mexico City, August

Forum on Trade on the Public Highway, Mexico City, February

Ibero-American Meeting on Consumer Protection Policies, Santo Domingo, April

International Seminar: Air Pollution in High Altitude Cities, Quito, April

First UCCI-UCCLA Cooperation Fair: Meeting on Housing, Lisbon, May

Meeting on Rehabilitation of Historic Centres as a Means of Supporting Tourism, Sucre, June

Municipalist Seminar "SINADES Programme", Madrid, August

Meeting on the Informal Economy, Lima, August

Summit of Ibero-American and European Capital Cities, Madrid, September

First International Seminar "Drugs and the City", Santiago, November

International Meeting on Transit and Transport in Big Cities, Caracas, November

Tenth Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, March

Eleventh Ibero-American Municipal Training Programme, Madrid, October

Ibero-American Culture Capital 1997, Havana

10. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Introductory statement

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent international health professional organization that promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. The global vision of IRCT is a world without torture which values and accepts shared responsibility for the eradication of torture. IRCT promotes and supports new and existing rehabilitation centres and prevention programmes, initiates emergency intervention projects, and works to secure the necessary funding and political will for the work against torture.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide. In the reporting period, IRCT directly supported the establishment of a umber of new rehabilitation centres as part of the Regional Strengthening Programme, supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the European Union (EU), including centres or programmes in Morocco, St. Petersburg, the Republic of Moldova and Cambodia. In addition, with the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, IRCT supported the establishment of the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Pristina. Another major achievement was the IRCT's intervention in East Timor, resulting in a nationwide survey on the needs of tortured and traumatized East Timorese. In addition, IRCT assisted a local non-governmental organization, Fokupers, in preparing and debriefing rape victims as part of the United Nations Mission in East Timor in November 1999.

IRCT advocated strongly in the United States on behalf of victims of torture, playing a part in the passage of the United States Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) placing the United States as one of the major contributors to the work against torture. In 1999, IRCT joined with Amnesty International (AI), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Fédération international des ACATS — Action des chrétiens pour d'abolition de la torture (FIACAT), Redress Trust and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT/SOS-Torture) to launch the Coalition of International NGOs against Torture (CINAT). CINAT represents the international non-governmental organization work against torture.

IRCT participation in United Nations meetings in the period under review

IRCT participated in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1997, 1998 and 1999 with oral statements under item 11, Civil and political rights, in addition to submission of a written statement. In 1999, CINAT arranged a parallel event during the Commission on the theme of impunity with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as the main speaker and a panel consisting of the IRCT Secretary-General and representatives of the other CINAT members. In 1999, IRCT also presented an oral intervention under item 12, Violence against women. IRCT participated in the Working Group on the development of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1999, 1998 and 1997 and at the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat Meeting in New York in 1998. As part of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, IRCT also participated in the Preparatory Commission meetings on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Court in June and November of 1999. Representatives from IRCT attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IRCT is the leading non-governmental organization in the commemoration of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June. In 1998 and 1999, IRCT coordinated the global campaign, providing relevant campaign materials to United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, health professional organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 1999, IRCT coordinated 26 June activities with 116 rehabilitation centres and organizations in 80 countries worldwide. IRCT collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York in a joint press conference on 26 June, and with the United Nations Nordic Information Centre in Copenhagen for the purpose of distributing materials. Finally, IRCT has had contact with the WHO regional office in Copenhagen and with WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Other relevant activities

The work of IRCT includes the promotion of ratification of the Convention against Torture, exertion of political pressure to increase contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and the commemoration of the 26 June International Day. All of these activities are directly relevant to the United Nations resolutions on torture. Representatives from IRCT have participated in informal consultations with the independent experts/rapporteurs regarding the reports on impunity and reparation.

IRCT held consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat in a number of meetings. The IRCT Secretary-General and Legal Adviser, together with the Danish Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary of the Committee against Torture during the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in 1999. The purpose of such meetings was to present IRCT and provide input to the United Nations High Commissioner on the work for the rehabilitation of victims of torture. The Deputy Secretary-General of IRCT held a meeting with the United

Nations High Commissioner on 9 October 1999 in order to hand over the Delhi Declaration emanating from the Eighth Symposium on Torture in New Delhi, India, organized by IRCT. The United Nations High Commissioner was Patron of the symposium. The IRCT Deputy Secretary-General, Programme Coordinator for International Relations and Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Secretary of the Committee against Torture, the Secretary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund, the Head of External Relations for the Office of the High Commissioner, and the Assistant of the Special Rapporteur on torture on 23 February 1999 in order to discuss inter-unit and external cooperation on torture rehabilitation-related issues.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide (see above for IRCT intervention in East Timor).

11. Pax Christi International

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

Pax Christi, the international Catholic Peace Movement, was founded in France in 1945 to foster peace and reconciliation. The movement has national sections, associate groups, affiliated organizations and individual corresponding members on all five continents. Its members, together with the International Council, the Executive Committee and the International Secretariat, are developing a whole series of initiatives to respond to people from all over the world where peace is most needed. Between 1995 and 1998, organizations in Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Guatemala and El Salvador, and three in India, became affiliated with Pax Christi International. New Pax Christi groups are emerging in places as widely separated as Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Japan. The movement continues to search for new approaches to peace in the fields of demilitarization and security, human rights, ecology, economic justice, development and reconciliation. To work for a just and peaceful world, Pax Christi believes that it must influence those who have power within the current world order. In the belief that it can be an effective member of collaborative efforts to influence those systems and entities, Pax Christi International sees representation at international and regional governmental bodies as integral to its work.

The representatives of Pax Christi International at the United Nations perform their activities on a voluntary basis. An allowance is fixed each year to contribute to the travel and organizational expenses of the representation. The ordinary budget of Pax Christi International is covered through income received as annual contributions from the Pax Christi national sections. Projects are covered by grants and earmarked donations. The regular work of Pax Christi International is coordinated at the biennial International Pax Christi Council (held in London in July 1997) and by the annual meetings of international commissions and working groups which also give directions for the representations' work in the framework of the consultative status at the United Nations. The three commissions, each with representatives/experts from the national sections, deal with interest areas across regional lines. They are: Commission for Economic Justice/Development, Ecology and Peace; Human Rights Commission; Commission for Security, Demilitarization and Arms Trade. The working groups deal with issues important to particular regions (Africa, Asia/ Pacific, Americas and Caribbean, Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe,

Commonwealth of Independent States) or with special themes such as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants; indigenous peoples, ethnic minority rights and peoples under occupation; impunity and truth commissions; children's rights; rights of women, and freedom of conscience and religion. The studies, research and experience gathered within the commissions and working groups are further substantiated by regional consultations. It is from the direction and focus of the total movement that Pax Christi International's efforts within the United Nations flow and through which the resolutions of the United Nations are implemented. Pax Christi International is a subscribing member of the International Peace Bureau, the World Organization Against Torture and Social Alert. Pax Christi International publishes an e-mail newsletter and a print newsletter in English and French that includes reports and announcements from the international movement and our representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. Detailed reports of the work of the Pax Christi United Nations teams are regularly submitted to the Executive Committee and the appropriate commissions and/or working groups of Pax Christi International. United Nations team members also report regularly in the various magazines of national sections of Pax Christi.

1998 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The movement took an active part in the initiatives of the NGO coalition for the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The International Secretariat regularly corresponded with Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, and Mary Robinson, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on urgent issues such as Iraq and the former Yugoslavia.

The Pax Christi team at the United Nations in New York dealt mainly with the following issues: disarmament, the arms trade and security issues, social development and human rights, interfaith dialogue, child soldiers, street children and refugees. Team members actively participated in United Nations meetings on subjects such as children, the United Nations Arms Register, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and on arms issues in general such as small arms and light weapons, the World Summit for Social Development, Habitat II and the Earth Summit. They networked with other NGOs with similar agendas, made interventions, attended seminars and study days and developed research files. The team participated actively with the NGO Committee on Disarmament. One representative attended the meetings of the First Committee of the General Assembly, compiled resource materials on issues such as the Arms Register, and had regular contacts with the United Nations Centre for Disarmament. Other representatives attended the Third Committee meetings on human rights issues. They also attended the various NGO committees: human rights, the family, and ageing. Each year, Pax Christi made an intervention on East Timor at the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization.

The United Nations team spent much of its time on issues related to the World Summit for Social Development and participated at this Summit in 1995. Since then, the team has participated in sessions of the Commission for Social Development charged with follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit. Members were present at the Commission for Social Development in 1998 and made an oral intervention on the link between disarmament, the arms issue generally, and development. Work was also done regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In all activities Pax Christi worked in collaboration with other NGOs, co-sponsoring the NGO Conference on Demilitarization Issues and making interventions at major NGO conferences on disarmament. One of the organization's representatives worked on

the Iraq sanctions issue. At the request of Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile, she researched elements for a sanctions policy framework for the United Nations and subsequently wrote a short paper, "Towards a framework for an international sanctions policy".

Representatives attended the Third Committee meetings on issues related to the rights of children. Attention was focused on four specific topics: child soldiers, children affected by armed conflict, street children, and exploited children (including child workers and child prostitutes). Members of the team participated in the NGO Committee for UNICEF and the working groups on children in armed conflict and exploited children.

Representatives were present at the formal presentation and at other events associated with the launching of the United Nations report on the study of the impact of armed conflict on children. Members attended the special meetings with Olara A. Otunnu, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts. Pax Christi fully supports the recommendations of the report by implementing the relevant recommendations and collaborating with other NGOs on workshops to study and promote the report. At the suggestion of members of the team in New York, an international Pax Christi working group on the rights of the child was formed in 1997.

Pax Christi representatives formed part of the planning committee to assist the United Nations Department of Public Information and NGO Executive Committee to organize the annual NGO Conference in New York. Representatives served on the hospitality committee, chaired one of the major panels, and one was a speaker for the panel on international sanctions. Pax Christi representatives on the inter-faith planning group were involved in preparations for various events such as the United Nations Meditation Room and the Temple of Understanding workshops. They were also involved in preparing ceremonies addressing issues of world religions. Members were present at the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court and at the NGO-ICC caucus meetings.

The team in Geneva was active primarily in the field of human rights, most notably by organizing briefings and making interventions at the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Delegates were also present at meetings of the Working Group on Minorities and the Geneva Review Conference on the Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) on the elimination of anti-personnel mines. The organization's representatives had regular contact with members of the governmental delegations and with the (special) rapporteurs.

Interventions in the United Nations Commission for Human Rights (both written and oral) during the fifty-first, fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions covered the issues of: religious intolerance; torture and disappearances; violations of human rights in all countries; the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; indigenous peoples; fundamental freedoms; detention or imprisonment; rights of the child (including international trafficking of children's organs); the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights; the right to conscientious objection as a basic human right; exploitation of women; mercenaries; impunity; migrants and displaced persons; the debt crisis and the right to development; anti-personnel mines; and extreme poverty. Most of these texts covered agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 24. In a majority of these

interventions specific situations or countries were mentioned such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, East Timor, Myanmar, Northern Ireland, Peru, Brazil, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Rwanda and Algeria. Written interventions focused mainly on the situations in Cuba, Colombia and Burundi. Some interventions were made in collaboration with other NGOs, for example on Guatemala, Mexico (Chiapas), Colombia and Turkey. Hearings were organized on the landmines issue and briefings were organized or co-organized on topics such as Chechnya, Turkey, East Timor, Haiti and Bougainville.

Interventions in the last four sessions of the Subcommissions on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities were on such topics as the situations in the Middle East; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; contemporary forms of slavery; human rights of indigenous peoples; intolerance and discrimination; the administration of justice and human rights; freedom of movement; the situation regarding the promotion, full realization and protection of the rights of children and youth; the review of further developments; and, in close cooperation with other NGOs, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and apartheid, racism and discrimination. Briefings were organized or co-organized on Turkey, Indonesia and East Timor, West Papua and Bougainville.

Each year, a report has been published covering all the oral and written interventions, an overview of the activities of the representatives, and an analysis of the sessions of both the Commission for Human Rights and the Subcommission. These reports have been widely distributed within the movement. Fact-finding visits and missions have studied the human rights situations in Central Africa (1995), the Middle East (1997) and Central America and Mexico (1997). Cardinal Danneels, on behalf of Pax Christi International, and Dr. Konrad Raiser, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, published a joint declaration in which they characterized nuclear dissuasion as morally perverse. They were both present in Geneva for the Preparatory Committee of the Review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April 1998. Members attended the seminar organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on "Enriching the universality of human rights: Islamic perspectives on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" in November 1998.

In Vienna, the organization's representative is active within the NGO Committee on Disarmament. As a member of that committee, he has much contact with official delegates and members of the United Nations Secretariat. Special involvement was developed in matters of nuclear-weapon-free zones, NPT, the campaign to ban landmines and nuclear weapons and Abolition 2000. A specific concerns of the representative in Vienna is the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

12. World Society of Victimology

(Special consultative status granted in 1982)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The World Society of Victimology (WSV) has as its purpose to advance victimological research and practices throughout the world by various means like the triennial International Symposium on Victimology, publications, seminars, international networking of victimologists and facilitating international, national,

regional, and local cooperation to promote the welfare of victims throughout the entire world.

In the reporting period the World Society increased its membership considerably and now has representation in Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Romania, Scotland, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Suriname, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The number of members from Australia, South Africa and East Asia has grown considerably. This is due to the growing awareness of victims' rights in these countries and to conscientious promoting of the cause in these regions on the part of the Society.

The reporting period has seen growth in national and regional societies of victimology in Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Greece, Indonesia, Serbia, Spain and in Asia.

There are no substantial changes in the sources of funding; WSV finances its activities exclusively from membership contributions.

There are no formal affiliations with other NGOs in consultative status except that WSV is regularly represented at the Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (ISPAC). For ISPAC, WSV members contributed to the 1999 paper "Restorative justice", which was officially submitted to the Centre for International Crime Prevention in Vienna.

WSV cooperated with the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP), attended the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at the sessions of the International Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna, and was active at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. It concentrated on working actively in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice expert group on victims of crime and abuse of power in the international setting held from 18 to 22 December 1995 in Vienna and at subsequent meetings in the United States and the Netherlands and was involved in drafting the implementation manual for the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, adopted in 1985 by General Assembly resolution 40/34. The Declaration was in the 1980s the main success of the World Society of Victimology. It had been drafted first within the World Society by Irvin Waller (Canada) and LeRoy Lamborn (United States).

The Secretary-General issued a statement on restorative justice and on victims in the International Court of Justice in February 1997 as a contribution to the special issue of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice newsletter (May 1997). He was involved in the deliberations to prepare Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/28 on firearm regulation for purposes of crime prevention and public health and safety and in the deliberations which led to Council resolution 1997/31 on victims of crime and abuse of power.

WSV was involved in the preparations for the *Guide for Policy Makers on the Implementation of the UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* and for the *United Nations Handbook on Justice for Victims*.

WSV and its Secretary-General were involved in the work of the subcommittee studying the effects of traumatic stress on victims of crime under a joint project of the United Nations and the International Society on Traumatic Stress Studies.

WSV delegations at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights during the reporting period have been directed by Syed Nazir Gilani and Marie-Pierre de Liege of the Arab World Institute.

WSV held two big international symposia on victimology in the reporting period, one in Amsterdam and one in Montreal. Both symposia discussed the role of the United Nations and the relevance of the United Nations Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. In Montreal, WSV celebrated a whole-day symposium for the fifteenth anniversary of the Declaration with 1,300 participants, including high-ranking officials from the United Nations and several ministers of justice from different countries.

A very important role in disseminating detailed knowledge about the Declaration, the *Guide for Policy Makers* and the *United Nations Handbook on Justice for Victims* were the main activities of WSV besides the triennial symposia. WSV conducted international post-graduate courses on victimology, victim assistance and criminal justice. In every year of the reporting period these bi-weekly seminars were conducted at the Inter-University Centre of Dubrovnik, bringing together every year about 30 students from different nations and about 25 professors, including the members of the Executive Committee of WSV. Since 1998, the Asian Post-Graduate Courses in Victimology and Victim Assistance have been organized at Tokiwa University in Mito, Japan. In total, about 160 post-graduate students have become familiar with the details of the Declaration and have spread and will spread this knowledge as multipliers in their respective countries, a contribution to the dissemination and implementation of the Declaration worldwide.

As a last point of describing the relationships of WSV to the United Nations it should be mentioned that WSV could not keep its President in that position because he became the Principal Officer of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

At various levels and on various occasions, WSV has cooperated with the United Nations bodies mentioned in this report and WSV is determined to continue this good cooperation in the future.

13. France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

The purpose of France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, founded in 1986, is to contribute to the promotion and strengthening of individual and collective freedoms throughout the world and to help women and men working for those goals, to help disadvantaged creative minds wherever they may be to bring

their ideas to fruition, to provide support to all those who by virtue of their social status or environment risk destitution and abject poverty.

France Libertés has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and makes regular submissions to the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights during their respective sessions in March, April and August of each year in Geneva. France Libertés also participates in conferences, seminars and meetings organized during those sessions by both the Commission and non-governmental organizations.

In 1994, France Libertés participated in the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights and presented oral reports on Western Sahara, in cooperation with Pax Christi International, as well as on Iraq, East Timor, Tibet and Colombia, in association with that country's human rights coordination organization, during which we called the wife of a man who had disappeared to testify. In August 1994, France Libertés participated in meetings of the Subcommission devoted to the fight against discriminatory measures and the protection of minorities.

France Libertés also contributed to preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and to efforts to increase awareness of its objectives and participated in the Conference. The Conference proposed that the General Assembly should appoint a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

France Libertés helped to organize several concerts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to assist various Latin American associations (Violeta Parra Foundation of Chile, Children for Music from Bolivia, Chile and Argentina, and the Pastoral Association from Colombia).

In 1995, France Libertés participated in the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. Our organization made submissions on several agenda items: East Timor, Western Sahara, Tibet, Colombia, Iraq, Togo, Mauritania and, together with the national branch of the International Federation of ACAT (Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture), Peru. In August, our active work in the Subcommission in Geneva took the form of persistent efforts to increase awareness of the situation in Turkey, Peru and Colombia. As a result, after numerous meetings, and after much negotiation between experts and governments, France Libertés and a large number of NGOs succeeded in bringing a resolution on Colombia before the Subcommission for the first time. As was the case for Turkey, a decision was adopted on freedom of speech. With regard to Peru, we persuaded the Chairman of the Subcommission to make a declaration on impunity in Peru. We also made submissions on China regarding the situation of the dissident Harry Wu as well as Bahrain, Turkey, Iraq, Peru, Kosovo, ex-Yugoslavia, and the Caucasus.

In 1996, as in previous years, France Libertés participated in the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. We made presentations on agenda items relating to Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and Colombia. At the Subcommission, in August, we made a submission on Brazil during which Ms. Jeanete Capeberibe, Deputy from the State of Amapa, spoke on behalf of France Libertés to discuss the problem of the massacres of landless peasants in that country, as well as presentations on the situation of the Kurds in Iraq and on East Timor.

France Libertés also participated in the meeting of the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In 1997, France Libertés participated in the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and made presentations on East Timor, Western Sahara, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Colombia and Peru. In August, we also participated in the Subcommission and made presentations on Colombia, Turkey, the Comoros, Peru, Bahrain, China, Myanmar, Mauritania, Iran and Israel.

A representative of France Libertés visited Colombia in February 1997 to participate in the international NGO preparatory meeting for the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

France Libertés is also a regular participant in meetings, seminars and events organized by UNESCO.

With regard to United Nations resolutions:

(a) In our many submissions on human rights and individual and collective freedoms to the Governments of various countries, we refer to the Charter of the United Nations and its various resolutions, where warranted, to remind the authorities of the need to respect these principles enunciated therein. We made many submissions but will not list them in this short report;

(b) Ms. Danielle Mitterrand, President of France Libertés, had informal meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and took the opportunity to raise the issue of the human rights situation in several countries;

(c) The resolutions and role of the United Nations are frequently referred to in various contexts in the Foundation's quarterly publication, *Lettre de la Fondation*.

The efforts of non-governmental organizations in the United Nations do not always lead to rapid action and satisfactory results on the part of the Organization. It is also true that NGOs have less and less time to make their presentations: currently only five minutes rather than 10 in the past. In addition, States have a right of reply to NGO reports, but the NGOs have no such right. It is, however, important that NGOs be present in the Commission and Subcommission because, to some extent, they complement their work. Indeed, although the United Nations has greater material and political resources, it is not as present in the field as non-governmental organizations, which are in constant contact with local conditions and populations and can transmit any complaints they receive. NGOs also can and must highlight inconsistencies in actions taken by the United Nations as well as remind it of its obligations.

14. International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction

(Special consultative status granted in 1954)

Purpose, scope and objectives

The purpose of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) is to provide a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction in

support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

CIB covers technical, economic, environmental and other aspects of building and construction, addressing all steps in the process of basic and applied research, documentation and transfer of research results, and the implementation and actual application of them.

The objectives of CIB are: to be a relevant source of information concerning research and innovation worldwide in the field of building and construction; to provide reliable and effective access to the global research community; and to be a forum for achieving a meaningful exchange between the entire spectrum of building and construction interests and the global research community.

Funding

The principal source of funding throughout the period under review has continued to be the revenue from members who pay an annual fee to the Council. The level of payment depends on the member's assigned category: full, associate or individual.

Membership

CIB's membership has continued to expand throughout the period under review, and it has now developed into a worldwide network of over 5,000 experts from about 500 organizations in nearly 100 countries, active in the research community, in industry or in education, who collaborate and exchange information in over 50 international commissions extending over all fields in building and construction-related research and innovation.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

CIB informs the United Nations of symposia, meetings, projects, etc. judged to be of interest. Direct communication and cooperation is effected through the medium of CIB member institutes which are in regular contact with United Nations units in their region. CIB member institutes execute consultancy and other technical assignments for United Nations agencies. They are agreed upon directly by the parties concerned.

Publications

CIB considers it to be a prime task to give permanent form to the results of its activities through publications, and the output originating from the Commissions has been of three main types: scientific or technical analyses, international state-of-the-art reports, and proceedings of workshops, symposia and conferences. The subject matter of the publications reflects the broad spectrum of CIB's activities and will therefore include references to areas of United Nations interests — e.g., low-cost housing, informal settlements, etc.

The CIB bi-monthly *Information Bulletin* features regular highlights in CIB's activities. For the internationally minded research professional, regularly updated sources of reference in the form of directories are produced, and recently practical legal texts have been issued.

15. Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Report for 1995-1998

Objectives and aims

The aim of the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA) is to protect and promote the rights of every person living in Central America; to raise standards and to teach people about their rights and mechanisms of protection, so as to ensure their proper enjoyment.

CODEHUCA currently has 12 member organizations in the Central American region, spanning the seven countries from Belize to Panama. Since 1995, when the Committee for the Relatives of Detained Disappeared Persons in Honduras (CODEFAH) became a member, the Commission has not added to its membership. It is not affiliated with any non-governmental organization holding consultative status of any category, and it does not receive any financial contribution from the United Nations or any of its subsidiary bodies.

Participation in the council and its subsidiary bodies

In general CODEHUCA participates with oral and written proposals, accusations and analyses. It participated, on request, in the following meetings:

(a) Fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1996), with oral and written discussions on, inter alia, economic, social and cultural rights, and children's rights;

(b) Working Group on Indigenous People, concerning the project for a universal declaration of the rights of indigenous people (Geneva, 1996), with written and oral submissions;

(c) Fifty-third session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Geneva, 1997) on enforced or involuntary disappearances;

(d) World Summit for Social Development (New York, March 1995);

(e) Forty-ninth session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on the situation of migrant workers and their families, the question of transnational businesses, the rights of women, and the application of international standards relating to the rights of minors in detention;

(f) Second session of the Special Working Group on Migrants and Human Rights (February 1998);

(g) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on the rights of migrant workers, persons subjected to any form of detention or incarceration or torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatments or punishments; on the situation of human rights procedures, promotion, protection and defence, and other items;

(h) Fiftieth session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on economic, social and cultural rights, transnational

businesses; the administration of justice and human rights; international standards relating to minors in detention; justice for minors; rights of women;

(i) Fifty-first annual DPI/NGO conference on the theme "50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from words to actions" (New York, 1998);

(j) Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights, on economic, social and cultural rights; enforced disappearances and summary execution; rights of women and violence against women; rights of children; migrant workers; promotion and protection of human rights, the defence of human rights and services for sorting and technical cooperation in material concerning human rights;

(k) Forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1-19 March 1999);

(l) Session of the Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (New York, 24-31 March 1999);

(m) Session of the Commission for Social Development acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (New York, 1999);

(n) Twenty-first special session of the General Assembly (New York, 30 June-2 July 1999);

(o) Fifty-first session of the Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, on the right of sovereignty and self-determination; toxic waste and the contamination of military bases occupied by the United States in Panama;

(p) Meetings in Costa Rica with Vittit Muntarbhorn, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children; Fatoma Zohra Ouhachi-Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on toxic waste;

(q) Meetings with Arjun Sengupta, independent expert on the right to development; Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Fatoma Zohra Ouhachi-Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on toxic waste; Katarina Tomasevski, Special Rapporteur on the right to education; Radhiuka Coornaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and Ofelia Calcetas Santos, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the situation of children and adolescents.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

CODEHUCA initiated a campaign for the elaboration of a facultative protocol for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It participated in relevant forums of UNDP, helping to distribute educational materials and coordinate and execute activities with the World Organization for Migrants on the situation of migrants in the region. It responded to various questionnaires from the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Other relevant activities

(a) Periodic publication of materials with commentaries — for example, on the Declaration for the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based

on Religion or Beliefs (resolution 36/55 of 1981), and on the Declaration on Social Progress and Improvement (resolution 2542 (XXIV), of 1969);

(b) Annual celebrations of, among others, International Day of Women, International Day against Violence, International Human Rights Day, International Day of Migrants, with different activities such as national and regional meetings, marches, conferences, publicities, open-air concerts or children's courses;

(c) The Commission organizes national and regional seminars and workshops on the administration of justice, mechanisms and international means of protecting human rights and their application in the region. For example, in 1998 CODEHUCA held a series of national workshops dedicated to the need to elaborate and approve a facultative protocol to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(d) Regional investigations were carried out on the prison system, street children, child prostitution and economic, social and cultural rights.

16. Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

Aims and purposes, membership and funding

Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (formerly known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund) is a non-profit, public interest, environmental law organization whose purpose is to provide advice concerning environmental laws, their content and application on behalf of other non-profit organizations with an interest in protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural and human environment. Earthjustice provides legal representation for other organizations in courts of the United States and before international tribunals.

Earthjustice promotes the development of international environmental rights and standards through participation in the Commission on Human Rights (Commission) and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Subcommission). In addition, Earthjustice educates members and others regarding international environmental rights and standards.

Earthjustice has over 150,000 members in 11 countries.

Earthjustice has had no substantial changes in sources of funding since it was granted consultative status.

Earthjustice is not affiliated with any international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Earthjustice representatives attended every session of the Commission during the reporting period. Earthjustice's participation included working with United Nations officials and members of governmental and non-governmental delegations to promote human rights and the environment. Formal submissions include the following:

At the fifty-first session of the Commission (February-March 1995), Earthjustice made oral statements under agenda item 19 on human rights and the environment, and under agenda item 14, concerning the effects of toxic waste dumping on human rights, in particular the right to life. During January 1995, Earthjustice disseminated a memorandum to other non-governmental organizations concerning the report on human rights and the environment by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission. In December of the same year, Earthjustice submitted to the Centre for Human Rights written comments concerning the Special Rapporteur's final report on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9).

At the fifty-second session of the Commission (March 1996), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, concerning human rights and the environment. At that session, Earthjustice also prepared and disseminated numerous written materials concerning human rights and the environment, including an issue paper entitled "Human rights and the environment — Ken Saro-Wiwa: a tragic case in point".

At the fifty-third session of the Commission (March 1997), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, concerning human rights and the environment. During that session, Earthjustice also circulated a position paper entitled "The United Nations, human rights and the environment", and published and disseminated a study, "The realization of environmental human rights within the institutional framework of the United Nations".

At the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (March 1998), Earthjustice made an oral statement under agenda item 5, on human rights and the environment.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

During the reporting period, Earthjustice worked extensively with the Subcommission's Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, consulting with her and conducting research on relevant issues. Earthjustice also consulted with and presented research materials to the Commission's Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, including a 1995 issue paper entitled "Toxics and human rights".

Other relevant activities

Earthjustice representatives met with governmental officials and non-governmental organizations to promote the recommendations in the final report of the Subcommission Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9). Earthjustice has disseminated thousands of copies of the final report in all parts of the world and has produced numerous publications relating to human rights and the environment.

Earthjustice representatives also worked closely with, and provided materials to, the secretariat of the Basel Convention and other UNEP programmes in Geneva, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. During the reporting period, Earthjustice representatives also participated actively in discussions of the working group for the preparation of a draft convention on access to environmental

information and public participation in environmental decision-making of the Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP) of the Economic Commission for Europe, which led to the adoption of the Aahrus Convention in June 1998.

17. Association of Arab-American University Graduates

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

The Association of Arab-American University Graduates (AAUG) is a not-for-profit educational and cultural organization representing the broad spectrum of Arab-American professionals. Through its publications and activities, AAUG has been a consistent voice for justice and peace in the Middle East.

AAUG publishes three periodicals. *Arab Studies Quarterly* is the flagship publication and the largest circulating journal in English devoted exclusively to the Arab world. *AAUG Monitor* is a quarterly publication which includes analysis and commentary of current events and trends. The *AAUG Newsletter* supports the membership by providing a forum for news of the Association's activities and the views of its membership.

AAUG coordinates a mentorship programme to bring together experienced scholars and professionals from various fields with students and young professionals.

AAUG organizes an annual national conference and smaller local seminars on the Middle East and Arab-American issues. It also holds special conferences in the Arab world in cooperation with local academic institutions. In the past it has held joint conferences with Bir Zeit University, the University of Jordan and, in the summer of 2000, in Beirut in collaboration with the Center for Arab Studies.

Participation in United Nations conferences and/or meetings

A representative of AAUG attended meetings of the Economic and Social Council in July 1997, 1998 and 1999.

A representative of AAUG has been a member of the Planning Committee for the DPI/NGO Annual Conference for three consecutive years (1998, 1999, 2000), and an AAUG member was chair of the Registration Committee in 2000. An AAUG representative was elected a member of the DPI/NGO Executive Committee.

On the question of Palestine, AAUG representatives have attended the relevant meetings of the Second Committee and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, most recently on 17 October 2000.

18. International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists

(Special consultative status granted 1995)

Aims and purposes

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) was created in 1969 as a membership association of Jewish lawyers and jurists. Its principal purpose is to contribute to the establishment of an international legal order

based on the rule of law in relations between all nations and to promote respect for human rights and the equality of all peoples and States in order that they may live together in peace. IAJLJ also studies problems of particular interest to Jewish communities and to the State of Israel. It is thus mainly composed of Jewish members, while also being open to all lawyers and jurists who identify with the objects of IAJLJ, irrespective of belief, creed or any other distinction whatever. Its current membership comprises lawyers and jurists in 50 countries throughout the world, whether at the bar, on the bench, as judicial officials, legal advisers or academics.

Participation in subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

During the reporting period following the granting of special consultative status in August 1995, the representative of IAJLJ personally attended or closely followed proceedings of the fifty-second through fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the forty-seventh through fiftieth sessions of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (subsequently renamed the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights). IAJLJ made the following oral statements to these two bodies:

(a) Commission on Human Rights:

(i) Fifty-second session: statement made on 29 March 1996 commenting on the report of the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (E/CN.4/1996/95) and recommending the adoption of a convention based on the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief;

(ii) Fifty-third session: statement made on 19 March 1997 likewise commenting on the Special Rapporteur's report on the implementation of the 1981 Declaration (E/CN.4/1997/91) and the deterioration of the overall situation in this regard in the intervening year;

(iii) Fifty-fourth session: IAJLJ was principally concerned with the reform of its agenda and contacted many delegations of the Commission on this question, having in the previous year been active in the presentation of the non-governmental organization community's written statement on this matter;

(b) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: IAJLJ was similarly associated with making proposals for reforming this body's working methods presented by the non-governmental organization community. Furthermore, the IAJLJ representative made oral statements to the Subcommission as follows:

(i) Forty-seventh session: statement made on 25 August 1995 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;

(ii) Forty-eighth session: statement made on 12 August 1996 on the role of the Subcommission in combating racism and racial discrimination and the contribution of its Working Group in promoting the implementation of the 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(iii) Forty-ninth session: statements made on 12 August 1997 on the comprehensive examination of thematic issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination, and on 27 August 1997 on terrorism and human rights.

IAJLJ participated in a seminar organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held in Geneva from 10 to 14 November 1997, on the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, intervening in the proceedings notably to contribute documentation produced in its periodical *Justice*, No. 12, of March 1997 and earlier issues, on the propagation of racist propaganda on the Internet.

IAJLJ has also closely followed developments at the sessions of the treaty bodies supervising the implementation of the human rights conventions, held in Geneva throughout the reporting period. *Justice* (No. 19 (1998), p. 23) contains an article on reporting by Israel to these bodies.

IAJLJ attended all sessions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Its representative consulted successive Directors of the Department of International Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on issues arising with respect to the grant of asylum, instances of actual or feared denial of the principle of non-refoulement and the role of non-governmental actors in various countries in creating conditions giving rise to the well-founded fear of persecution, which the competent national authorities are unable or unwilling to remove.

Consultations

Also during the period under review, IAJLJ held consultations with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Thus, following the grant of consultative status to IAJLJ, its President and the Geneva representative met the Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Ibrahima Fall, early in May 1996 to introduce the IAJLJ's programme of activities in the field of human rights and to inform him of its principal preoccupations. Subsequently, following the concerns that IAJLJ had expressed in a statement which was formally adopted at its eleventh International Congress in Jerusalem on 31 December 1998 (published in *Justice* No. 20) and submitted to Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 25 May 1999, including several matters falling directly within her competence, a meeting took place between the United Nations High Commissioner, the IAJLJ President Judge Hadassa Ben-Itto and the IAJLJ Geneva representative on 8 July 1999, at which a constructive exchange of views took place. The United Nations High Commissioner agreed to publish an article in the IAJLJ periodical *Justice* (it appears in the January 2000 issue).

Publications

As noted above, the principal publication of IAJLJ is *Justice*. Issued quarterly, it describes the Association's activities, including its triennial congresses, international meetings and seminars. It contains articles by learned academicians, judges, practitioners and other experts on legal issues of interest to the membership as a whole, including several articles on United Nations-related matters. In addition to those cited above, these include articles on the following subjects: the inaugural statement on religious intolerance made by the IAJLJ representative at the forty-seventh session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (No. 7, p. 25); arms control and the United Nations experience

in Iraq (No. 8, p. 17); report on the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights (No. 10, p. 36); dangerous censorship of a United Nations rapporteur (No. 14, p. 10); and the International Criminal Court (No. 18, p. 19).

IAJLJ will be installing its web site on the Internet. The web site, to be operational in the course of February 2001, will feature articles published in *Justice* (including those cited above), which could be supplied as required.

19. World Safety Organization

(Special consultative status granted in 1987)

Introductory statement recalling aims and purposes

The following report recounts some of the activities of the World Safety Organization (WSO) at the United Nations for the quadrennial period 1995-1998. It is recalled that the purpose of WSO since its founding in Manila in 1975, reaffirmed when it relocated to the United States of America in 1985 during tumultuous times in the Philippines, has been to internationalize the safety and accident prevention movement and spread as widely as possible throughout the world the benefits of practices, skills, arts and technologies of safety and accident prevention. Protection of people, resources, environment and property has always been the major focus of WSO activities and programmes. WSO is a non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian, multidisciplinary, multicultural international professional organization working in the public interest. It receives no support from any sources other than membership dues, conference fees and publication, professional attire and accessories income.

Summary of WSO activities on behalf of the United Nations for the period 1995-1998

WSO has global professional interests in safety, health and environmental protection. Therefore, for example, WSO has participated in conference proceedings (notably the sixth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development) and Dr. Seiden, WSO Main Representative, has made various contacts with ILO, UNDP and other agencies. As time progresses, WSO would hope to contribute to substantive United Nations concerns consistent with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, part IV, paragraphs 28-32, and part V, paragraphs 34-39. Paragraph 39 entitled "Special studies" is of particularly critical interest to WSO since WSO has organizational expertise and commitments in safety, health and environmental protection, which are significant areas of concern to diverse United Nations agencies, programmes, organizations etc.

WSO has applied for reclassification from special to general consultative status. Its original application was submitted in 1998, and a second one in 1999 after the first was evidently lost during renovation and relocation of various offices at the United Nations. It is understood the application will be acted upon in June 2000.

Public information and relations are "substantive" areas of United Nations concern since, on balance, it is largely through civil society grass-roots outreach programming of the United Nations that groundwork is laid for later application of United Nations resources around the world to solve international problems. In this spirit, Dr. Seiden has written extensively on behalf of WSO as its main representative to the United Nations.

He produced a limited-edition manual for WSO distributed within WSO and the United Nations entitled *The United Nations: A Managerial Focus and Framework for Understanding* in addition to a much more expansive one for the education of WSO-United Nations representatives. A copy of each was deposited in 1998 with the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Resource Centre. His small brochure, also written for WSO for general distribution is entitled *What is the United Nations and What's in it for US? The Work of the United Nations and its Benefits to the United States*. Both of these publications were offered to various offices at the United Nations for their unlimited use. The larger manual was entitled *Operations, Resource and Training Manual for WSO Representatives and Liaison Officers to the United Nations*.

Also in preparation since 1997, recently completed and submitted in May 2000 to Dr. Hanifa Mesoui of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for her approval prior to presentation of a copy by WSO to the Secretary-General is the manuscript for a new book completed by Dr. Seiden entitled *Problem-solving in the Third Millennium: The Ergonomics and Management of Problem-solving*. This book addresses a pervasive problem-solving "virus" which he terms "defeatability proneness".

A unique programme originally conceived by him several years ago (late 1998) but only recently inaugurated owing to the pressures of business is a tour programme, whereby groups of people representing various non-governmental organizations are bussed to New York United Nations Headquarters. Dr. Seiden provides a 15-20 minute briefing on the United Nations en route to the United Nations. Two tours of this type were finally programmed and conducted in 2000. They basically include a tour of the United Nations combined with a luncheon in the Delegates Dining Room. Where feasible, there is an emphasis on those works included in the United Nations art collection that are publicly accessible. Thus, this particular programme will span two quadrennial reports, namely, 1998 and 2002. It is envisioned that the programme concept and preliminary procedures manual will be bequeathed by WSO to the Department of Public Information for its use in encouraging other non-governmental organizations to participate in such a programme and implement it in their own areas. (Dr. Seiden has arranged such tours thus far for local New Jersey groups.)

Some WSO publications contain references to the United Nations including one WSO tech letter containing an article on sustainable development prepared by Dr. Seiden for the WSO membership. In 1995, two tech letters and one news letter carried articles on the United Nations. These are related to its origins, milestones and achievements, and support for the United Nations by WSO on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In 1998, Dr. Seiden made a kick-off presentation on the United Nations at the WSO Twelfth Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congress in Dallas, Texas.

WSO has conducted Global Safety Round Tables at its Annual World Safety and Accident Prevention Congresses and publishes the proceedings thereof. It publishes an International Consultants Directory annually and its newsletters, during the period 1995-1998, have carried articles on occupational health and safety in a multicultural environment, child safety from a global perspective, radiation processing in public health: the potential in Ghana, overview of the current activities of the European Community in the field of injury and accident prevention, safety

management in Czech plants, moving into the Asia-Pacific region? a corporate checklist for health planning, emergency response, safety training for Russian oilfield workers, WSO Board of Certified Governmental Safety and Environmental Health Officers etc. There also have been various articles on WSO certification programmes and boards, which are international in scope.

In addition to the above, WSO representatives have attended various weekly Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations briefings. Owing to pressures of time and personal commitments, these have had to be carefully selected on the basis of relevance to WSO priority interests. Although the WSO world view is panoramic, it has been virtually impossible for any WSO representative to attend more than, perhaps, one meeting a month on average, even in the case of Dr. Seiden who, however, has been able to schedule greater coverage when required including, for example, attendance at every meeting of the sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His predecessor main representative, Mr. Larry Gell, attended virtually every briefing and videotaped them while he was active at the United Nations on behalf of WSO. These videotapes are filed in the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations Resource Centre in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library building.

In 1998, a logo designed by Dr. Seiden was offered to the Commission on Sustainable Development for consideration as its own logo. Although WSO has not been contacted by the Commission as yet, WSO hopes that it may ultimately prove to be of interest to either the Commission on Sustainable Development or the United Nations generally. This logo is believed by WSO to be descriptive of the sustainable development process and its holistic integration of people, resources, technology and the environment for the "world good".

During 1998, Dr. Seiden prepared a product safety standard for WSO entitled "World Safety Standard on Product/Physical Safety — WSO/PPSS 01.1-1998". Copies of this standard were distributed at the 1998 World Safety Congress referred to above. The standard not only incorporates provisions relating to the "Standard Rules of Practice (ROP) for Safety and Accident Prevention", but also emphasizes the human factors and ergonomics approach to safety problem-solving. Consistent with the overarching United Nations focus on human rights, the Standard contains the following specification in its definition of ergonomic design: "... ergonomically acceptable designs incorporate, among other things, human rights content".

20. International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee

(Consultative status granted in 1987)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) is an international non-profit association registered in Belgium and incorporated under Belgium law (identification No. 111049/89).

The stated purpose of CITA is:

(a) To facilitate the exchange of information and experience among its members about matters within the field of compulsory inspection of in-service

motor vehicles and their trailers with regard to road safety and/or the protection of the environment;

(b) To propose, coordinate and develop studies and scientific inquiries to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of inspection of in-service motor vehicles and trailers carried out to meet compulsory periodic test requirements or inspections carried out by enforcement authorities.

Activities include:

(a) Standardization of the inspection methods;

(b) Standardization of the inspection conditions applicable to the different categories of vehicles;

(c) Improvement and standardization of quality control, assurance and accreditation systems and standards used to ensure the consistent application of the pass and fail criteria;

(d) Improvement and standardization of information systems which hold data on inspection and which are used to improve inspection consistency and to increase the effectiveness of police inspections;

(e) Improvement of the professional training of the personnel appointed to carry out the compulsory inspections of in-service motor vehicles and their trailers;

(f) Cooperation with the European Union and United Nations (Economic Commission for Europe) institutions and relevant public and private international or national bodies on the matters above;

(g) Generation of expert proposals to contribute to the improvement of road safety and to the protection of the environment.

Increase in geographical membership

Since 1994 the number of CITA members increased geographically:

Europe: Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Slovakia, Romania

Africa: Tunisia, Algeria

Oceania: New Zealand.

CITA also maintains contacts with Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Ireland, Burkina Faso, Gabon, South Africa, Lithuania, Norway, China and the Russian Federation.

Changes in sources of funding

There have been no substantial changes in the sources of funding (membership fees).

Affiliation to an international NGO in consultative status

CITA has no such affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Attendance at meetings

CITA's representative to ECE (Geneva), Georges Verdon, attended meetings of the Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles (WP.29) on the ECE Inland Transport Committee and some of its expert meetings when items relevant to periodic roadworthiness testing (compulsory periodic vehicle inspection) were on the agenda. More specifically, he attended the one-hundred-and-ninth through one-hundred-and-sixteenth sessions of the Working Party as well as thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions of the Working Party in Pollution and Energy, the forty-third session of the Working Party on Brake and Running Gear and the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Working Party on Noise.

Statements

CITA's participation at the one-hundred-and-sixteenth session of WP.29 (10-13 November 1998) was referred to in the report (TRANS/WP.29/640) as follows:

"(e) Cooperation with the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1)

"...

"30. Considering the question of a revision of the Consolidated Resolution R.E.1, annex 2 — Periodic Inspection of Vehicles — checks to be carried out, WP.29 supported the request of WP.1 to invite the assistance of the International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) in updating this annex. (...)"

"1997 Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections

"128. "...the expert from CITA recalled that the expertise of his organisation had allowed to develop requirements for periodical technical inspections and that CITA was ready to assist their further development also in the framework of Agreement on Periodical Technical Inspections of 13 November 1997."

Further to the above remarks made during the one-hundred-and-sixteenth session of the Working Party, CITA received in the beginning of 1999 a formal request for assistance from the WP.29 secretariat. CITA replied positively to both requests.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

See the information provided above.

Other relevant activities

CITA cooperates closely with the institutions of the European Union.

CITA is represented by its Technical Adviser in the Technical Adaptation Committee on Roadworthiness Testing under the presidency of Directorate General VII (Inland Transport) of the European Commission. The European Union and WP.29 are increasingly cooperating to ensure conformity between their legislations and to avoid duplication in their work.

CITA organizes international meetings, attended by members and non-members:

1995 – Third CITA Technical Symposium (Ghent, Belgium);

1996 – Fourth General Assembly (Helsinki);

1997 – Fifth Extraordinary General Assembly and Fourth CITA Technical Symposium (Antwerp, Belgium);

1998 – Sixth CITA General Assembly (Bonn).

Seven working groups are active within CITA:

1. Exhaust Emissions
2. On-Board Diagnostics
3. Quality Assurance
4. New Test Items
5. Brake Testing
6. Scope of Roadworthiness Testing
7. Electronically Controlled Systems

CITA publishes every two years a survey (CITA General Questionnaire), collecting and analysing information on roadworthiness testing throughout the world.

A newsletter (*CITA News*) is published three to four times a year in English and/or French. It includes, among other things, an item on developments in ECE.

21. National Bar Association

(Special consultative status granted in 1985)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the National Bar Association is "... to advance the science of jurisprudence, uphold the honour of the legal profession, promote social intercourse among the members of the bar, and protect the civil and political rights of all citizens of the several states of the United States" and the world.

The purpose of this report is to give the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations information about the activities of the National Bar Association, Inc., such that we retain our "special" status for the next four years.

Our NGO is committed to promoting the rule of law throughout the world. Almost all of our international activities focus on transnational legal institutions, lawyers and legal systems.

We are the only mainstream organization of African American attorneys which holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. We represent at the Council the perspectives of peoples of colour worldwide as they face the adversities of legal problems within their lives.

We expect to play a pivotal role in the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in South Africa in 2001.

Moreover, the annual National Bar Association international affiliate meeting in countries outside of the United States allows us first-hand knowledge of the legal problems of others and their legal systems.

Increase in geographical membership

The geographical membership of the National Bar Association has increased beyond the United States to several countries throughout the world. The total membership is 20,000. There are 87 local affiliates and 14 international affiliates.

Changes in sources of funding

There have been no such changes.

Affiliation to any international NGO in consultative status

We have no such affiliation.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conference and other United Nations meetings

NBA has been represented at the following meetings:

(a) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995 and at the NGO Forum at the Conferences;

(b) Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995-1998; in 1997 we made an oral intervention on "The rights of African Americans and people of colour worldwide to be free from economic subjugation";

(c) Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva, Switzerland, 1995-1998;

(d) United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (ICC), Rome, June/July 1999;

(e) First session of the Preparatory Commission for ICC, United Nations Headquarters, 16-26 February 1999;

(f) Second session of the Preparatory Commission for ICC, United Nations Headquarters, 26 July-13 August 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

NBA sent observers to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 1997 and 1998, and to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, The Hague, 1995 and 1996.

Other relevant activities

NBA held international meetings in South Africa (1995), Accra (1996), Bahia, Brazil (1997), and Tanzania and Kenya (1998).

With respect to the banana tariff issue, NBA held a seminar in Jamaica in 1997 on the fairness of the removal of protective tariffs for the banana trade in selected Caribbean countries.

NBA sent a delegation in 1994 and in 1995 to South Africa to prepare for the elections and then subsequently to be observers for the election; a delegation went to South Africa for post-election observations in June 1996.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

The National Bar Association adopted resolutions at its annual meetings in 1995-1998 on issues of international concern:

(a) The relationship between political parity and economic development in South Africa;

(b) The need to support the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda with donations of goods and services;

(c) The fairness of the removal of protective tariffs for the banana trade in selected Caribbean countries;

(d) Resolutions (1996) on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

NBA has had consultations and cooperated with officials in the Department of Human Resources Management of the United Nations concerning a donation from Westlaw on-line legal research services to the two international criminal tribunals. The donation of unlimited use of on-line legal research services for four years is worth millions of dollars in in-kind services to the tribunals.

Presentations

At a workshop of the Amnesty International Midwest Regional Conference, held on 31 October 1998 at University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio, NBA made a presentation on the topic "The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: compromise of victory or disaster?"

Professor George Edwards, NBA member, gave a briefing on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Hong Kong at the Human Rights Committee meeting in November 1999.

NBA made a presentation entitled "Fifty years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 10 December 1948-10 December 1998 and beyond", to the Amnesty International Indianapolis Chapter, 14 December 1997.

22. Resources for the Future

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Resources for the Future (RFF) is a non-profit and non-partisan think tank that conducts independent research — rooted primarily in economics and other social sciences — on environmental and natural resource issues. RFF is a publicly funded organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our operating

budget is derived from investment income, government grants and contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations.

RFF's involvement with the United Nations has come primarily through our Climate Economics and Policy Programme, which conducts and disseminates research related to domestic and international climate change policies. RFF staff from the Climate Economics and Policy Programme have worked extensively with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in recent years, including by participating in the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC held in Buenos Aires in 1998.

RFF staff have worked closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on many levels. We have participated in several working sessions of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Policy Forum. We have been involved with UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a member of the International Working Group on the Clean Development Mechanism. And RFF staff contributed written material to the "Design and Implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism" draft report prepared by UNCTAD as a product of the International Working Group on the Clean Development Mechanism.

In addition, RFF has devoted substantial resources to disseminating the activities of UNFCCC through the establishment of a web site known as Weathervane (http://www.weathervane.rff.org). Weathervane is an on-line forum designed to provide the news media, legislators, opinion leaders and the interested public with analysis and commentary on policy initiatives related to climate change. The aim of Weathervane is to provide a balanced and objective forum for the careful climate change analysis that is essential in policy-making. To help accomplish this goal, Weathervane features:

(a) "Perspectives on policy", an on-line forum in which we solicit the views of key voices from academia, Government and industry on issues related to climate change and the ongoing international negotiations;

(b) "At the negotiating table", a venue where we track all international activity related to the Kyoto Protocol;

(c) Feature articles. Weathervane posts approximately four new feature articles each week that provide insight into breaking news in the climate change arena;

(d) "Climate issue briefs", short reports providing timely, topical information and analysis about climate change issues to a broad non-technical audience. A full inventory of "Climate issue briefs" can be accessed at http://www.weathervane.rff.org/archives/climatebriefs.html.

Weathervane has logged more than 2 million hits and hosted more than 85,000 user sessions since it was established in July 1997. In addition to visitors from the United States, we have interacted with visitors from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Austria, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Italy, Malaysia and Brazil.

Beyond climate change, RFF's researchers produce approximately 50 research papers and a dozen books and reports each year on issues ranging from electric utility restructuring to sustainable forestry. All research at RFF is guided by the notions that sensible environmental policy must balance the costs and benefits of

proposed alternatives, and that once environmental goals are established, we should accomplish these goals in the most inexpensive way possible. All of RFF's recent research can be accessed through our main web site: http://www.rff.org.

23. Simon Wiesenthal Center

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Introduction

Founded by its present Dean, Rabbi Marvin Hier, the Simon Wiesenthal Center is an international Jewish human rights organization with a membership of 440,000. Established in Los Angeles in 1977, it draws the lessons of the Holocaust to the analysis of contemporary issues.

The Center carries the name of the Nazi investigator who has brought over 1,100 war criminals to the bar of justice. Still active in his ninety-first year in the city of Vienna, his purpose in granting his name to an institution in his own lifetime was to prevent a recurrence of the Holocaust for any people.

His Center today is truly international, with offices throughout the United States and regional bureaux in Toronto, Paris, Jerusalem and Buenos Aires. Though the majority of membership are in North America, there are expanding support groups in the United Kingdom, across Europe and in Latin America. The Center maintains an extensive global network of correspondents on human rights issues.

It has held NGO status at sessions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and is represented on the Executive Board of the European Network against Racism (ENAR), which has consultative status with the European Commission and the European Racism and Xenophobia Information Network (RAXEN) in Vienna.

Even before achieving consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Wiesenthal Center had already worked in cooperation with such United Nations specialized agencies as UNESCO:

(a) Holding a joint conference in Paris in 1992 on "Educating against prejudice — the case of resurgent anti-Semitism". This resulted from a meeting between Simon Wiesenthal and UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor that addressed the incipient problem of "technology in the service of hate", i.e. the pernicious effect upon young people of neo-Nazi computer games;

(b) In 1993, Mr. Mayor opened the Center's Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles — a hi-tech human rights laboratory, since then visited by over 3 million people. This educational arm is directed to youth and, by interactive pedagogy, sets personal challenges in confronting the dilemmas of democracy and the Culture of Peace. Such world leaders as the late King Hussein of Jordan, President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, the Dalai Lama, the late President Herzog of Israel, diplomats and members of United Nations missions have visited and spoken from its podium. The museum is the focus for the civic action "Tools for tolerance" programme that trains military personnel and law enforcement agents towards sensitivity to social pluralism.

Participation in United Nations meetings

At the close of the United Nations Year for Tolerance in November 1995 in New York, Simon Wiesenthal addressed the General Assembly as a delegate of Austria. In his statement, he warned the global community of the potential for atrocity in the former Yugoslavia, urging immediate international measures. As a result, the Center was involved in several Year of Tolerance pedagogical initiatives in European educational institutions through its mobile 40-panel exhibition "The courage to remember" and its Oscar-winning documentary film, "Genocide".

In 1996, the Center's Associate Dean, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, sounded an alarm on "Hate, terrorism and mayhem on the Internet" at the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva.

During the European Year against Racism in 1997, the Center organized an international high school essay competition together with UNESCO and the European Parliament. The 28 laureates from 15 countries were received at both organizations' headquarters in Paris and Strasbourg, respectively, where they were received by the Parliament's President and UNESCO's Director-General.

In 1998, the Center "premiered" its second Oscar-winning documentary, "The Long Way Home", at the United Nations Office at Geneva, co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the United States. The film is a case study of the refugee phenomenon (survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, confined in Western internment camps from 1945 to 1948, seek safe haven — a home).

In the same year, the Center held a conference on "Past and present — from Nuremberg to The Hague" at United Nations Headquarters. Participants included United States Senator Christopher Dodd, *Newsday* Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Roy Gutman, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, emeritus Chairman of the United Nations Commission to Investigate Human Rights Violations in the Former Yugoslavia, Cherif Bassiouni, the Center's Washington, D.C. legal counsel, Martin Mendelsohn, and the Director of the Center's Task Force against Hate, Mark Weitzman.

On 19 March 1999, the Center distributed its CD-ROM "Digital hate 2000", exposing some 1,500 Internet sites that promote racism and violence. This was given to every United Nations delegation.

On 4 November 1999, the Center opened "Visas for life: the righteous diplomats" at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This exhibition honoured diplomats who during the Second World War courageously rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. They included Hiram Bingham, Jr. of the United States of America, Aristedes de Sousa Mendes of Portugal, Chiune Sugihara of Japan and Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden. The exhibition will also open in the Visitors' Gallery Museum Exhibit area of United Nations Headquarters on 3 April 2000, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Center will be bringing especially from Europe several of the surviving diplomats.

Cooperation with specialized agencies

In June 1999, the Center organized, together with UNESCO, an international conference in Moscow on "Tolerance-building for civic society — against extremism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism" under the patronage of the Mayor of

Moscow, the Ministry of Nationalities of the Russian Federation, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Presidential Commission on Human Rights and the Russian National Commission of UNESCO.

In the same month, the Center held, together with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, and in the framework of the UNESCO Culture of Peace programme, an international colloquium in Vienna on "Confronting crimes against humanity — from human rights to international responsibilities", with a special session on "Kosovo in the mirror of Nuremberg".

Other relevant activities

The following events were held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles:

(a) 29 October 1998, "Artists and refugees: war-exiled Bosnian women weave the fabric of hope". This exhibition was presented in cooperation with the Susret Art Workshop in Austria, the Austrian Consulate General of Los Angeles and the Austrian Cultural Institute of New York, and Soroptimist International. Composed of 45 tapestries, quilts and rugs handcrafted by Bosnian women refugees in Austria together with drawings by children traumatized by the ethnic violence in the Balkans;

(b) 5 December 1998, "Reunions: the lost children of Rwanda". This exhibition, organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, was sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company and Life Magazine. The 6,000 portraits included were part of the over 20,000 photographs displayed in refugee camps, intended to reunite lost Rwandan children with their families;

(c) 25 February 1999, "International symposium and eyewitness report on slavery in Africa today: a call for freedom", co-sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Group, Inc. and Loveland Church. The symposium features first-person accounts from escaped slaves and historians with interactive discussion on effective international responses;

(d) The Wiesenthal Center in 1994 launched ARARE (Academic Response to anti-Semitism and Racism in Europe), currently comprising over 500 rectors and professors of all faiths and disciplines at universities in more than 30 countries across Europe. ARARE conferences have included "Resurgent Fascism as a threat to minorities" (Oxford, United Kingdom, 1994), "From xenophobia to tolerance — Jews and Muslims" (Paris, 1995), "The smiling face of Fascism" (London, 1996), "World War II combatants and neutrals — shattered myths and deconstructed memories" (Brussels, 1997), "Hate on the Internet — dangers and realities" (Paris, 1998), "Fifty years of human rights — visions and realities" (Prague, 1999);

(e) The Center, through its Moriah Films Division, has produced four full-length documentaries, two of which have won an Academy Award: Genocide (Oscar 1981), Echoes that Remain (based on Eastern European film archives opened after 1989), Liberation (on the Normandy landings), The Long Way Home (Oscar 1998 for its study of the refugee phenomenon).

Simon Wiesenthal, the man, will mark his ninety-first birthday on 31 December 1999. Still active in combating the consequences of totalitarianism, he has said "I have received many honours in my life. The greatest honour is that the Center that bears my name will ensure that my work is continued: ..."

24. World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

(Special consultative status granted in 1947)

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is a worldwide Christian, ecumenical, voluntary movement for women and men with special emphasis on and the genuine involvement of young people, which seeks to share the Christian ideal of building a human community of justice with love, peace and reconciliation for the fullness of all creation. The World Alliance of YMCAs represents the YMCA at all levels by providing leadership on thematic issues, Christian mission, youth and gender, justice and human rights issues, development, capacity-building, responses to emergencies, communications and research.

The organization's representatives in New York, Geneva and other centres have attended various United Nations meetings throughout the reporting period. There are over 35 million members of YMCAs all over the world. This does not include programme participants who do not pay membership fees but are recipients of YMCA services. There are no accurate statistics of their numbers, but broad estimates suggest that the YMCA has a reach of double the membership, which means that at least 70 million are affected by YMCA interventions.

The organization closely follows the agendas of the United Nations and attends briefings on special subjects, especially those related to the organization's priorities. Because the YMCA is so diverse in its work around the world, documents received from United Nations sources are often helpful to one or another of the YMCA movements around the world. The World Alliance of YMCAs also joins NGO-related events organized around United Nations conferences. Frequently the organization co-signs statements with other organizations.

Actions in implementation of United Nations resolutions include:

(a) Meetings with officials of the United Nations and its agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Division for Palestinian Rights and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Centre for Disarmament, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, etc.;

(b) The World Alliance of YMCAs often duplicates copies of relevant circulars from the United Nations for member national movements with a view to making them aware of and becoming involved in the issues at the national and local levels;

(c) Many United Nations issues are on the global agendas of the worldwide YMCA. Some examples include: women, population, health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, housing for the poor, landmines, disability, drugs and substance abuse, poverty elimination, racism, refugees, rights of children, disarmament, migrants and asylum-seekers, cultural development, literacy, Palestinian rights and globalization;

(d) A number of national and local YMCAs have worked with United Nations agencies at their levels;

(e) On average, the World Alliance of YMCAs has 8-10 representatives who follow activities at the United Nations Offices in Geneva and at Headquarters. Our

relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris have decreased in the past few years. However, there is an attempt to revive this relationship and the YMCA in France will act as the representative of the World Alliance in Paris;

(f) Articles published in *YMCA WORLD*, the quarterly publication of the World Alliance of YMCAs, have dealt with issues emanating from the United Nations.

25. International Electrotechnical Commission

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

Aims and purposes

Founded in 1906, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. IEC was founded as a result of a resolution passed at the International Electrical Congress held in St. Louis in 1904. The membership consists of more than 50 participating countries, including all the world's major trading nations and a growing number of industrializing countries.

IEC membership

In the period 1995-1998 IEC membership expanded from 51 member countries to 60. The introduction of associate and pre-associate membership categories has encouraged new members from developing countries.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IEC has participated in meetings of the following bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe during the reporting period:

(a) Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, (Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies);

(b) Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;

(c) Committee on Power Distribution;

(d) Committee on Electronic Data Transfer.

IEC maintains contact with the following United Nations agencies through exchange of documents and reciprocal attendance at meetings:

(a) World Trade Organization. Observer status on the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

(b) International Labour Organization. Liaison in the field of live working, electrical installations through IEC technical committees;

(c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)-R. Radiocommunications Bureau; liaison with study groups;

(d) ITU-T. Telecommunication standardization; liaison with study groups;

(e) World Health Organization. Liaison in the fields of medical equipment, non-ionizing radiation.

26. Physicians for Human Rights

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) mobilizes the health professions and enlists support from the general public to protect and promote the human rights of all people.

Since 1986, PHR members have worked to stop torture, disappearances, and political killings by Governments and opposition groups; to improve health and sanitary conditions in prisons and detention centres; to investigate the physical and psychological consequences of violations of humanitarian law in internal and international conflicts; to defend medical neutrality and the right of civilians and combatants to receive medical care during times of war; to protect health professionals who are victims of violations of human rights; and to prevent medical complicity in torture and other abuses.

PHR conducts educational and training projects for health professionals, members of the judiciary and human rights advocates on the application of medical and forensic skills to the investigation of violations of human rights. PHR bases its actions on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights and humanitarian agreements.

As one of the founding members of the steering committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Physicians for Human Rights shared the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Campaign and its coordinator Jody Williams. PHR currently serves on the Coordinating Committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Projects relating to the work of the United Nations

Development of the Istanbul Protocol: International Standards for the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Ill Treatment

During the past 20 years, much has been learned about torture and its consequences, but there have been no international guidelines for documentation. This situation changed on 9 August 1999, when dozens of experts submitted the first comprehensive set of guidelines for the documentation and investigation of torture: *Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (Istanbul Protocol).

The Protocol is the result of three years of analysis, research and drafting undertaken by more than 75 forensic doctors, physicians, psychologists, human rights monitors, and lawyers who represent 40 organizations and institutions from 15 countries. Dr. Vincent Iacopino of Physicians for Human Rights was the initiator and primary coordinator of the project. The project was conceived in March 1996, after an international symposium, "Medicine and human rights", held at the Department of Forensic Medicine, Cukurova University Medical Faculty, Adana, by the Turkish Medical Association. The drafting process culminated at a meeting in

Istanbul in March 1999, when the *Manual* reached its final form. The documentation methods contained in the *Manual* also apply to other contexts, including human rights investigations and monitoring, assessment of individuals seeking political asylum, the defence of individuals who "confess" to crimes during torture, and assessment of needs for the care of torture victims. In the case of health professionals who are coerced to neglect, misrepresent, or falsify evidence of torture, the *Manual* also provides an international point of reference for health professionals and adjudicators alike.

The Istanbul Protocol also outlines minimum standards for State adherence to ensure the effective documentation of torture in its "Principles on the Effective Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment". These principles have been submitted to United Nations officials for consideration by the General Assembly. Official publication of the *Manual* by the United Nations is expected by the year 2000. In the meantime electronic copies of the version submitted to the United Nations may be obtained from several web sites (www.phrusa.org, www.hrft.org.tr, and www.tihv.org.tr).

United Nations officials who participated in the final conference related to the development of the Protocol included: Ms. Mary Robinson, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Mr. Nigel Rodley, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture; Mr. Alessio Bruni, Secretary to the Committee Against Torture; Mr. Daniel Premont, Secretary to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; Mr. David Weissbrodt, Member, United Nations Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Forensic work for international criminal tribunals

Between 1995 and 1998, PHR provided extensive medico-legal expertise and consultation to the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and for Rwanda (ICTR). In December 1994, PHR conducted an educational seminar in The Hague for the Tribunal's staff. The two-day seminar, held at the request of Prosecutor Richard J. Goldstone, covered the medico-legal investigation of war crimes and the psychological and sociological aspects of working with survivors of torture and rape. In December 1995 and again in January and March 1996, PHR experts participated in preliminary assessment visits to mass graves in Bosnia. PHR deployed large multinational teams at the request of the Tribunal for extensive exhumation and examination of mass graves in Bosnia, Croatia and Srpska from July through November 1996, including the important sites of the Srebrenica massacres. A PHR team also returned to Vukovar, Croatia, in September 1996 to complete the excavation of the mass grave at that site. In 1997, PHR established an antemortem database and forensic training programme in Bosnia to work in cooperation with ICTY and local authorities on the recovery and identification of remains.

Since the establishment of the Tribunal for Rwanda, PHR has sent forensic survey teams to that country to assist in the gathering of evidence of war crimes by mapping the mass graves of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who were slaughtered by government extremists between early April and mid July 1994. In January and February 1996, a 16-person team carried out the exhumation and forensic examination of 500 bodies from a mass grave in the parish of Kibuye in western Rwanda. The team included archaeologists, pathologists and forensic technicians from the United States, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Guatemala

and Scotland. In June, a second team returned to Kigali to exhume graves in several sites in the Rwandan capital. During the course of both exhumations, PHR teams gathered important evidence for cases against indicted war criminals. The team examined more than 450 remains from the Kibuye grave itself. Of those, more than half were infants, children and young people under the age of 18. The predominant causes of death were machete wounds and blunt force trauma to the head. Survivors also came forward to identify clothing of loved ones and the process yielded new eyewitnesses to the crimes. PHR's Dr. William Haglund has testified in several cases before ICTR in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

In recognition of PHR's efforts, the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor, Judge Richard Goldstone, wrote to PHR stating the following, "Thank you for the outstanding work done by the team from Physicians for Human Rights. You have unmatched expertise in this field and without your assistance these vital exhumations would in all probability not be possible." Funds for this work were contributed by UNDP, among others.

Afghanistan mass graves

Physicians for Human Rights was contacted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) in early December 1997 with a request for a forensic scientist to travel immediately to Afghanistan to join a United Nations team investigating mass graves near Maaza I Sharif. Dr. Mark Skinner, of Vancouver, an experienced forensic anthropologist, was able to represent PHR on that investigation. The discovery of several mass graves and bodies buried in wells that appeared to be the victims of summary executions caused a stir in the United Nations and in the press. Dr. Skinner has since submitted his report to the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

Somalia mass graves

PHR dispatched two forensic anthropologists, including Dr. William Haglund, director of PHR's International Forensics Program, to northern Somalia in December 1997 at the request of UNCHR. The purpose of the mission was to conduct a preliminary assessment of a large, open mass grave believed to contain bodies of victims of massacres perpetrated by the forces of former Somali leader Siad Barre. The report prepared for the United Nations Centre for Human Rights recommended various options for recovery of remains, forensic evaluation, and training of Somali investigators. The United Nations issued a report of the investigation in 1999, "Preliminary assessment of mass graves in the vicinity of Hargeisa, Somalia (E/CN.4/1999/103/Add.1).

Consultation on humanitarian aid to Afghanistan

On 21 August 1998 PHR's advocacy director, Holly Burkhalter, participated in a meeting in New York at the invitation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to discuss human rights and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Representatives from WHO, UNICEF, and other United Nations agencies attended. PHR had conducted an extensive investigation into the violations of the rights of women and the threat to women's health under the Taliban regime.

Promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In 1998 in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, PHR launched a campaign to educate health professionals about that important document and its relationship to health worldwide. The organization distributed widely a brochure "Forging the Link" and published an article on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association. PHR also organized anniversary events at medical schools and public health schools. PHR Deputy Director Susannah Sirkin and Senior Medical Consultant Dr. Vincent Iacopino co-authored a chapter of the United Nations-sponsored book, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Fifty Years and Beyond*, and spoke at a ceremony to launch the book at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Landmines

As a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, PHR participated in the signing ceremonies in Ottawa and subsequent conferences that brought together non-governmental organizations, individual Governments and United Nations agencies.

27. Women, Law and Development International*

(Special consultative status granted in 1995)

Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) is a non-governmental organization committed to the protection and promotion of women's rights globally. WLDI collaborates with researchers, advocates, activists and monitors throughout the world to identify legal, cultural and economic impediments to women's enjoyment of human rights; develop effective activist strategies; and build the capacity of women's groups to advocate internationally and nationally for policies that recognize and protect women's rights. WLDI has been a pioneer in legal literacy and the women's human rights movement. Today, through its capacity-building efforts and collaborative, interdisciplinary research initiatives, WLDI continues to equip women throughout the world with the skills, tools and capacities necessary to "make rights real" for all women. WLDI has worked on several fronts, making important contributions to the global movement for women's rights. Among its accomplishments, WLDI has:

(a) Organized a number of agenda-setting global and regional forums that engaged key women leaders from around the world to articulate strategies for promoting and defending women's rights;

(b) Launched independent regional women's rights organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America that today are recognized as leaders in advocating for women's rights locally and globally;

(c) Initiated and carried out ground-breaking participatory research projects on women's human rights, violence against women, legal literacy, rights education and economic rights, among other themes, providing a basis for deeper understanding and broader recognition of women's human rights globally;

* Formerly, Institute for Women, Law and Development.

(d) Produced and disseminated innovative and practical strategy frameworks, "how-to" guides, case studies, fact sheets and other tools for advocacy, including *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* and others.

Between 1995 and 1998, WLDI's work focused mainly on building the capacity of women's non-governmental organizations through clarification of issues and strategies, capacity-building, and advocacy and organizing. WLDI played a role in the Fourth World Conference on Women, conducted research for the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and for the UNDP *Human Development Report*.

Activities

1995

In 1995, WLDI's activities focused on preparation for and participation in the Fourth World Conference in Beijing. WLDI advised the NGO Forum office on the design of Forum activities and participated in the NGO Forum and the conference itself. In May 1995 WLDI published *A Women's Rights Agenda for the 90s and Beyond* in Spanish, Russian, French, Arabic and Chinese. The outcome of a process involving more than 120 women's human rights activists from around the world, the *Agenda* includes recommendations targeting the United Nations, States, and NGOs, and was used by many groups to prepare for participation in the Conference and NGO Forum. At the Forum, WLDI released a book, *From Basic Needs to Basic Rights: Women's Claim to Human Rights*. The compilation of essays and case studies represents a cross-section of thinking and activism within the women's human rights movement on a number of critical issues. During the Forum, WLDI also coordinated a workshop on women's human rights advocacy for young NGO leaders.

At the invitation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, WLDI conducted a survey of laws and practices worldwide related to domestic violence. WLDI sponsored a panel at the NGO Forum together, with the United Nations Special Rapporteur to highlight findings from this research.

In 1995 WLDI was commissioned by UNDP to conduct a comparative review of legal discrimination against women worldwide for inclusion in the *1995 Human Development Report*.

1996

In 1996, the Institute for Women, Law and Development changed its name to Women, Law and Development International (WLDI) to better capture the international character of the organization's work.

In 1996, WLDI published and distributed *State Responses to Domestic Violence: Current Status and Needed Improvements*, a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations. The publication, which has been translated into Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish, outlines the United Nations human rights instruments that support the obligation to adopt domestic violence legislation and provides a model for drafting such legislation. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women presented findings from WLDI's research on domestic violence to the Commission on Human Rights at its 1996 session. At that time, WLDI undertook to conduct a global survey of legal responses to rape at the behest of the Special Rapporteur.

Also in 1996, WLDI used its consultative status with the United Nations to support the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. To that end, WLDI designed a lobbying strategy, and a WLDI representative attended 1996 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, to lobby key United Nations officials to support the extension.

1997

In 1997, WLDI completed the study *State Responses to Rape* for the Special Rapporteur, based on a worldwide survey of rape laws. A WLDI representative presented the study and an oral statement before the Commission on Human Rights regarding needed improvements in law, policy and practice related to rape. At the Commission, WLDI also lobbied for strong resolutions on the topic and for the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another three years.

In July WLDI published *Women's Human Rights Step by Step: A Practical Guide to Using International Human Rights Law and Mechanisms to Defend Women's Human Rights*. The manual describes in a simple, practical style the concepts and content of human rights law and its application to women. Designed as a basic guide to the operation of United Nations human rights mechanisms and strategies at the national, regional and international level, the manual explains why and how to use those strategies to promote and protect women's human rights.

WLDI prepared background material for the Special Rapporteur's report with a focus on violence against women in situations of armed conflict, particularly refugees and internally displaced women.

1998

In 1998, WLDI launched its *Human Rights Advanced Leadership Training for Women*. This global initiative aims to expand and deepen understanding of human rights advocacy and develop women's capacities to be influential advocates in national, regional and international forums. Using the *Women's Human Rights Step by Step* manual as a framework and principal resource, the project aims to develop the capacity of women to design and implement human rights advocacy strategies, bringing the law, policy and practice in their nations into line with international human rights norms. WLDI began this global capacity-building initiative with over 120 advocates from 22 countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States.

Also in 1998, WLDI published and disseminated *Gender Violence: The Hidden War Crime*. This book is intended to serve as a resource for Governments and non-governmental organizations around the world as well as for the United Nations and the human rights community in addressing the issue of violence against women in situations of armed conflict.

28. Friends World Committee for Consultation

(Special consultative status granted in 1948)

The central principle of the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), undertaken on behalf of Quakers (the Religious Society of

Friends) through its standing offices in New York and Geneva and through other representatives, is facilitation of international activity which promotes a more peaceful and humane world through the United Nations and other international organizations.

FWCC was established in 1937 as a means of communication and combined action for yearly meetings (autonomous groups) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). There are currently some 70 yearly meetings, as well as smaller groups, affiliated to FWCC. During the period under review, new yearly meetings in East Africa and Central America became affiliated. (This report does not cover yearly meeting activities or activities of FWCC which do not have a direct relation to its function as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council.)

FWCC maintains resident representatives in New York and Geneva and also appoints other representatives to conferences and similar events, as a means of implementing the Quaker religious commitment to peace, social justice and the fullness of humanity. The major sources of income for FWCC continue to be contributions from affiliated bodies, individuals and trusts. The New York office is managed and substantially funded by American Friends Service Committee, an independent Quaker organization in the United States, and the Geneva office, by Quaker Peace and Service, a part of the yearly meeting of Friends in Great Britain. Both offices also receive funding from other Quaker groups, individuals and trusts, and from some Governments. Such funds are received on the understanding that the donors do not direct the activities of the offices.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

Representatives in New York regularly observe meetings of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Staff in Geneva observe meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on Disarmament, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, human rights treaty bodies, the World Trade Organization and its Committee on Trade and the Environment, the International Labour Organization, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Other representatives regularly attend the meetings of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Special events attended include: (1996) Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Singapore; (1999) Preparatory Committee for Financing for Development; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Seattle.

FWCC made statements at the following meetings:

(a) 1996. Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; Commission on Human Rights, re legal principles for internally displaced persons;

(b) 1997. Commission on Human Rights, re the prevention of recruitment of children (oral), minimum humanitarian standards, ill-treatment of recruits, the right of conscientious objection (written);

(c) 1998. Oral statement to the General Debate of the Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); statement to the International Criminal Court Preparatory Committee, re Quaker involvement in ICC issues;

(d) 1999. Statement to the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Financing for Development, re dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies, and other relevant activities

The FWCC offices in both Geneva and New York organized a wide variety of colloquia, conferences, lunchtime meetings and other informal meetings for United Nations staff, diplomats and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Some of these were preparatory or offered as a follow-up to the conferences attended. Others related to the following topics which staff have been monitoring and analysing: reform of the United Nations, in particular of the Security Council; the Convention to Combat Desertification; the Commission on Sustainable Development; a global approach to and sustainable management for forests; freshwater; broad issues of peacemaking, peacekeeping and disarmament; conversion of military resources to civilian use; arms control and disarmament (for delegates to the Conference on Disarmament, 1996); codes of conduct in the sale and transfer of conventional arms; anti-personnel landmines; controls on small arms/light weapons; peace-building in war-torn societies; the Nuclear Non-proliferation Preparatory Committee and the Model Nuclear Weapons Disarmament Convention, 1997; trade and the environment; labour rights; the Multilateral Agreement on investment, 1997; child soldiers; conscientious objection; refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum laws; empowerment of women and their advancement in the social and economic fabric of societies; rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; (1998) promoting ILO Core Labour Conventions; codes of conduct and discrimination in export processing zones in Honduras; economic sanctions and their humanitarian effects; financing for development; the place of forest issues in the United Nations; preparation for the Conference on Racism in 2001; civilian roles in peacekeeping and non-military alternatives in humanitarian crises, especially in Africa; control of small arms and light weapons.

A Geneva staff member, Rachel Brett, contributed to the Machel study of the impact of armed conflict on children and addressed a follow-up meeting of the Geneva Humanitarian Working Group. She presented a paper "Minimum humanitarian standards" to a workshop in Cape Town and a seminar on International Humanitarian Law (1996), and helped to organize and made presentations to a UNICEF/NGO workshop and symposium on child soldiers in Africa, in Cape Town, which produced the Cape Town Principles and Best Practice on the prevention of recruitment, demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers. She drafted an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, relating to the minimum age for recruitment. The work on child soldiers has been published as *Children: The Invisible Soldiers* (Rachel Brett and Margart McCallin; Rädda Barnen, 1996). The New York office is involved in a study of the demobilization of adolescent girl soldiers.

Major residential, unofficial consultations with diplomats, secretariat staff and others were held on Security Council reform (1998), and small arms (1998). The Quaker Forest Colloquium III was held in 1999.

Visits to New York and Geneva, including meetings with United Nations staff, diplomats and non-governmental organizations, were arranged for Quakers and their contacts who have recent experience of various regions of interest, including Chechnya, Honduras, Angola, Colombia and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Both FWCC offices produce newsletters, reports, briefing papers and booklets for circulation to United Nations staff, diplomats, Quakers, academics and other concerned persons and bodies. Reports on the work are published in Quaker and other periodicals, and staff regularly travel to interpret their work and that of the United Nations to Quaker groups and other groups. Young people become familiar with United Nations procedures and issues through the intern programme at both offices, the regular summer school in Geneva, and the developing summer school in New York. A joint web site links the New York and Geneva offices and serves as a growing source of information for constituents.

29. International Federation of Human Rights Leagues

(Special consultative status granted in 1952)

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Its objective, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, has been to work for the concrete implementation of the Declaration. During the past 50 years, as a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations since 1952, it has greatly expanded its activities, sending missions to many countries, systematizing legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners in recent years and working with international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held in Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was greatly expanded and currently comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 corresponding leagues in 86 countries. A list of those organizations appears in the annex to this report.

Some of the themes which IFHR considered to be priorities for action during the period under review and which guided its work within the United Nations system are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as fundamental human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York have allowed for daily monitoring of its activities relating to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions) and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (forty-eighth to fifty-first sessions), and in the working groups created by those bodies. During the sessions, the IFHR delegation was made up of representatives of its member organizations and officials

and deputies of its leadership bodies. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national human rights organizations to the work of those bodies.

Up to 1997, the sessions of the Commission and the subcommission provided important informational and training opportunities for officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are active at the field level. Accordingly, training seminars were also organized. Their purpose was to promote dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States and to develop the best possible cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the bodies and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to United Nations efforts undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly the plan to create a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system, and the draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights. IFHR participated in the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and those of the Commission's working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights.

In addition, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, mainly through written statements and a number of oral statements under different agenda items, with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies.

Participation in sessions of the treaty bodies

The Federation participated in the sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During those sessions it provided the expert members with potentially useful information for their consideration of the periodic reports of States parties. It also made written and oral statements at several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Between October 1998 and October 1999, IFHR implemented a training programme for representatives of its member organizations that enabled them to contribute to the work of some sessions and familiarized them with the treaty monitoring system.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

The Federation now has formal consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In that capacity, under review, particularly in 1998, it contributed to the preparation of the draft programme and budget for 2000-2001.

In addition, the Federation has been admitted to the International Labour Organization Special List of non-governmental organizations and, in that capacity, is a participant in the International Labour Conference.

Other activities

Actions to promote the implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms created by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and geographic special rapporteurs, by providing them with information relevant to the discharge of their mandate.

IFHR participated in the standard-setting working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights, the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the work of the Subcommission's Working Group on Minorities and, in response to the appeal made by the Working Group, contacted its 105 affiliate leagues throughout the world to encourage them to contribute to the work of the Working Group's fourth session in May 1998 on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples of the Commission and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

Consultations and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat

IFHR met several times with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It provided information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Documents prepared at the request of the Secretary-General

IFHR provided information on various issues as requested by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

IFHR also contributed information on a regular basis for the preparation of various studies undertaken by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

30. Lutheran World Federation

(Special consultative status granted in 1952)

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a communion of 124 (as compared to 114 in 1984) Lutheran member churches on six continents. LWF serves to further the united witness, self-understanding and communion of its member churches. It serves to further Christian service (diakonia), alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources.

The United Nations has been a primary partner of LWF since its founding in 1947. LWF is authorized to serve as an international Lutheran agency which can be recognized by relevant United Nations agencies as well as by governmental, intergovernmental and voluntary organizations, to represent the member churches before such agencies, and to enter into such agreements with them as will facilitate LWF's work.

LWF maintains close contact on an ongoing basis with a large number of United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). LWF also works with the United Nations Secretariat's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Communication and Public Information (OCPI).

In cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local churches, LWF has long been deeply involved in refugee assistance programmes, especially in Africa, Asia and Central America. This concern is intimately linked to the commitment of LWF to uphold the human rights of all people. In harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, LWF understands human rights to include not only the rights of individuals to freedom of speech, religion, the press and assembly but also the rights to food, development, self-determination and participation in political and social life. The relationship between human rights violations and refugee migration has long been understood by LWF and its member churches.

LWF responds to global emergencies as its means allow and upon request from its member churches, field offices, ecumenical partners or national Governments. Assistance is provided to victims of both natural disasters and complex emergencies. LWF is a member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and in that capacity participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which serves as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of policy issues relating to humanitarian assistance and for formulating coherent and timely responses to major and complex emergencies. In the field, LWF and other non-governmental organizations often form emergency groups on a nationwide basis to provide coordination of their response.

There has been close contact with the office of the Secretary-General and the Department of Political Affairs with respect to promoting peace in Central America. On various occasions, LWF has also formally presented documented issues of human rights concern to the Commission on Human Rights.

LWF is active within the community of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council and is a member of the board of CONGO. Its representatives serve on the steering committees and subgroups of the NGO Committees on Human Rights, Southern Africa, Sustainable Development and Status of Women (New York and Geneva). LWF was active in the planning for, and participated in, the NGO forums that preceded or paralleled the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

Some selected examples of cooperation between LWF and the United Nations during the 1994-1997 quadrennium include:

(a) Sponsorship of meetings related to the Guatemala peace process involving the civil sector and the political dialogue in 1994 and 1995;

(b) Response to critical emergencies in Africa — e.g., Liberia, Sudan, and the Great Lakes region;

(c) Advocacy for and assistance in the repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of Mozambican and Angolan returnees;

(d) Repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico;

(e) Election monitoring in Liberia in 1997, in cooperation with UNOMIL;

(f) Participation in the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the World Food Summit (1996);

(g) Humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, particularly the operation of the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and a related village health clinic programme;

(h) Advocacy for the "Ottawa process" leading to the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and for its implementation;

(i) Involvement in the campaign to establish an International Criminal Court;

(j) Cooperation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in the publication and distribution of two books on women and development;

(k) Attendance at annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council, its committees, commissions and subcommissions (Status of Women, Sustainable Development, and Human Rights); the UNHCR Executive Committee; preparatory committees for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women; and at selected meetings of the General Assembly and its committees; and meetings called by other United Nations organs, as well as its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies.

31. Médecins sans frontières (International)

(General consultative status granted in 1993)

1. Médecins sans frontières (MSF) is the world's largest independent organization for emergency medical relief. In its first 25 years of action, MSF established a worldwide reputation for providing quick and effective aid to those whose lives are

put at risk by war or natural disaster. Médecins sans frontières is completely independent of all Governments and institutions, and of political, economic and religious influences. Consequently, MSF provides effective medical aid with or without the consent of the host Government, whereas other agencies sometimes cannot. Every year, around 2,000 MSF volunteers work alongside several thousand local staff on projects in some 80 countries. In addition to providing emergency relief aid, MSF speaks out about the systematic abuses of humanitarian law and human rights witnessed by its staff, often bringing injustice and malpractice to the world's attention.

MSF's international network is made up of 19 national sections; its international secretariat, based in Brussels, is responsible for coordinating the Geneva, and New York-based liaison activities with other international organizations and the United Nations, and for the fulfilment of MSF's consultative status to the Council.

MSF receives grants from international organizations and Governments for up to 5 per cent of its total resources, including 9-10 per cent from UNHCR. These funds are allocated to programmes in the following countries and areas: Afghanistan (a new hospital surgery unit), Angola (basic health care, repatriation of Angolan refugees), Armenia (emergency rehabilitation of health facilities), Burma/Thailand border (Myanmar refugees), Burundi, Goma (assistance in refugee camps), Guinea, Kenya, Somalia (Kismayo hospital), Chechnya, Sri Lanka (assistance to displaced populations), Congo/Zaire (emergency assistance to refugees).

Along with UNICEF and WHO, MSF created the International Coordination Group (ICG) in January of 1997. This four-year-long medical project, begun after the disastrous outbreaks of meningitis in 1995-1996 in West Africa, seeks to ensure better coordination in guaranteeing the availability of significant vaccine stocks for major epidemics.

Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies

During the past five years, Médecins sans frontières participated, in New York and Geneva, in numerous meetings involving staff and officers of the United Nations Secretariat, agencies and member States of the United Nations.

From April 1994 to the present, MSF has been providing assistance in the Rwanda/Burundi/Congo area and extensively communicating with the United Nations departments, agencies, member States and, in particular, the Security Council, on the plight of the civilians in the region. The first of such meetings was in April 1994, when MSF's representatives met with Ambassador Keating of New Zealand, then President of the Security Council, to brief him about the breadth of massacres directly witnessed by MSF teams in Butare, Rwanda.

Throughout the Bosnia/ex-Yugoslavia crisis, from Vukovar (1991) to Gorazde (1994) and Srebrenica (1995), MSF made numerous contacts and held meetings with United Nations officials and member States. MSF expressed the frustration of relief teams regarding the situation in ex-Yugoslavia, provided first-hand testimony, and spelled out the humanitarian dilemma at every stage of the conflict.

On 25 and 26 July 1996, MSF's representatives met with various ambassadors of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to raise the humanitarian community's awareness of the situation in Liberia and the suffering of the civilian population in Monrovia.

In December 1996 and February 1997, MSF's representatives repeatedly addressed the Sub-Group on NGOs at the High-Level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System. Concerning Council decision 1996/297, the MSF delegate to the United Nations asked that the current levels of NGO affiliation and participation be extended beyond the Council.

On 12 February 1997, under the "Somavia formula" MSF, together with CARE, ICRC and OXFAM, was invited to brief the Security Council and member States of the Council, on the situation in the Great Lakes region. On that occasion, MSF representatives came directly from Bujumbura, Kigali and Kisangani to give first-hand accounts of the deteriorating situation in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Participation in the work of other relevant bodies

Médecins sans frontières representatives participated in numerous seminars and conferences, such as the Health Coordination in Emergency Situations (WHO, Geneva, March 1997), Inter-Agency Advisory Group on Refugee Health (UNHCR, November 1997), the New Emergency Health Kit (UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and others), and the Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

The MSF delegate to the United Nations in New York participates in the weekly meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee (IASC), chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. IASC is the central humanitarian policy-making body in the United Nations system, with a mechanism by which joint decisions are taken on how best to respond to specific humanitarian crises. IASC members include the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Secretariat), UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, UNCHR, IOM, ICRC. Issues covered in these meetings include the provision of assistance and protection to internally displaced people, linking relief and development, strengthening system-wide accountability, monitoring and evaluation, the setting of priorities for advocacy campaigns and determining the allocation of responsibilities and operational responses to particular crises.

MSF also helps frame the agenda of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for its monthly meetings with InterAction members at Headquarters in New York. Similar meetings are held in Geneva. MSF also participates in the Executive Committee of UNHCR and its standing meetings. The situation of the refugees and displaced population has been regularly discussed at the highest level between the directors of MSF sections and UNHCR officials. Informal consultation and information exchange at every level takes place on a regular basis with MSF, its United Nations colleagues, donor countries and member States of the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the field.

32. Equality Now

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

Equality Now is an international human rights organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of women's rights around the world. Equality Now's mission is to end violence and discrimination against women and to gain universal recognition of

women's rights as human rights through the mobilization of public pressure. With this in mind, the following long-term goals for the organization were outlined:

(a) To campaign for the reform of law and practices that discriminate against women;

(b) To contribute towards the global campaign to end violence against women;

(c) To promote the equal partnership of women in decision-making.

Issues of concern to Equality Now include trafficking in women, rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, denial of reproductive rights, and other forms of violence and discrimination against women which result in the degradation, enslavement, injury and death of girls and women every day. Equality Now documents violations of these rights and, through its international Women's Action Network, adds an international action component to support local and national efforts on behalf of women's rights and on behalf of individual women who are suffering human rights violations.

The Women's Action Network is the core of Equality Now. The Network consists of almost 10,000 groups and individuals in more than 100 countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information on the status of women and violations of women's rights in their countries back through the Network. Appropriate actions designed to stop abuses or to implement effective preventive or remedial measures are addressed to Governments as well as, in some cases, non-governmental entities and individuals.

Beijing+5 campaign

In July 1999, Equality Now launched a year-long campaign to highlight the importance of accountability for the commitments made by Governments at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The Beijing +5 campaign focused on institutionalized gender discrimination in national laws to illustrate the failure by Governments to honour commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in Beijing, as well as other international legal agreements signed and ratified by those Governments. With the participation of national and local women's groups around the world, Equality Now researched and compiled selected texts of gender discriminatory laws and issued Women's Action 16.1, a report highlighting a cross-section of laws in 45 countries that discriminate against women with regard to personal status, marital status, economic status and violence against women. Twenty-eight groups from 25 countries, as well as regional groups representing Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Europe, partnered with Equality Now in this campaign. Several of the groups are working actively to change the laws highlighted in the report as well as other discriminatory laws in their countries. The campaign called upon Governments to repeal or amend those laws prior to the Beijing +5 special session as a show of genuine commitment to the Platform for Action.

In addition to distributing the report to United Nations treaty-based bodies (such as the Human Rights Committee, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), members of the international media and the Women's Action Network, Equality Now also sent the

report to the heads of State of the countries highlighted in it and to their permanent representatives to the United Nations. Equality Now also sent representatives to ensure that the campaign was raised at each of the regional preparatory conferences, in Bangkok, Addis Ababa, Geneva, Beirut and Lima, and to the final preparatory conference in New York. Equality Now also raised the campaign in individual meetings with United Nations missions.

As part of the campaign, Equality Now organized a briefing at the United Nations on 11 October 1999, co-sponsored by the Group on Equal Rights for Women in order to familiarize government representatives with the report.

During the special session, as with the final preparatory conference, Equality Now facilitated the participation of international activists and organized and coordinated the attendance of activists from 21 countries in East and Central Europe. Equality Now also organized several events which focused on a performance piece entitled "Women Can't Wait!". Commissioned by Equality Now and written and performed by Sarah Jones, the piece brings to life the impact of discriminatory laws on the lives of women and girls around the world. The response to the piece was overwhelmingly positive, and subsequent media coverage highlighted the special session and the significance of the negotiations regarding discriminatory laws. Equality Now also held a press conference at the United Nations on 6 June with several of its campaign supporters and, throughout the week, met with representatives from women's groups in several countries and began collaboration with them on upcoming Women's Actions, including women's suffrage in Kuwait and honour killings in Jordan. Equality Now also presented a special performance for delegates in Conference Room 4, with an introduction by actress Gwyneth Paltrow and several open performances at Customs House.

Equality Now lobbied government delegates and non-governmental organization representatives to ensure that provisions providing for the repeal of discriminatory laws remained in the official version of the outcome document. Equality Now also suggested language for the combined non-governmental organization coalition document. Equality Now representatives also participated in the NGO consultation on 4 March 2000 and in several of the issue-based and regional caucuses.

Report for the Division for the Advancement of Women

In December 1997, Equality Now was recruited by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to serve as the international non-governmental organization to coordinate a global project on domestic violence against women, funded by UNIFEM. The project involved five regional studies prepared by experts from the regions, who compiled information about new strategies and an evaluation of their impact. The overall objective of the project was to direct Governments, regional bodies, and civil society towards effective strategies at the national level. Drafts of the regional studies were prepared, and a meeting of the regional experts was held at the Division in August 1998. Subsequent revisions of the studies were made, and the final report will be published by the United Nations shortly.

Human Rights Committee

Since March 1995, Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the Human Rights Committee. Working

with women's rights groups in countries up for review by the Committee, Equality Now brings issues relating to women's rights to the attention of members of the Committee. Increasingly, the issues that Equality Now is raising with the Committee are being raised, in turn, by members of the Committee directly with the government delegations which appear before them to present their reports on compliance.

To date, Equality Now has raised concerns relating to violence against women, legally sanctioned discrimination, and reproductive rights in conjunction with its consideration of reports from Yemen, the United States, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong Province of China, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Zambia, Peru, Brazil, Lebanon, Colombia, India, Senegal, Lithuania, Sudan, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, Israel, Algeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Japan, Armenia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lesotho, Cambodia, Chile, Poland, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Cameroon and Mongolia.

Equality Now is the only women's rights group participating in the work of the Human Rights Committee on a regular basis, and many of the women's rights issues raised by Equality Now have been included in the Committee's concluding observations. Through its submissions, Equality Now has advanced several new arguments under international law relating to women and human rights. The Committee has taken note of these new arguments, and several of them have been incorporated into the Committee's work.

Jessica Neuwirth, President of the Board, spoke on a panel organized by the United Nations Development Programme, entitled Transforming Legislation: Challenges and Good Practices, held at the United Nations on 6 March 2000.

In September 2000, Equality Now held a screening of the documentary film "Crimes of Honor" for government and United Nations representatives at the United Nations and worked with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to develop a resolution against honour crimes which was adopted by the General Assembly in October 2000.

33. Qatar Charitable Society

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

Qatar Charitable Society is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political society, Qatar-based, established in the early 1980s under the name Qatar Committee for Orphans. Due to the expansion of its services, the founders resolved to expand the aims and objectives and transformed the Committee into the present Qatar Charitable Society.

The aims and objectives of the Society centre on social, financial, health and educational services, including vocational training to orphans and widows. These were later extended to students, teachers and the disabled. The Society is involved in income-generating activities for poor families, provision of water and sanitation services, and emergency relief services mainly for refugees and communities hit by disaster.

Another activity is the Muslim-related provision of free meals during the month of fasting (Ramdan) and the distribution of sacrificial animals (a sacred Muslin act). The Society provides the same for non-Muslims living in the vicinity of Muslims.

The Society also engages in other charitable services, mainly the construction of hospitals, clinics and schools and, wherever possible, the provision of medical equipment to the newly built or existing facilities.

Women receive great attention from the Society, stemming from its services to windows. The Society established a parallel women's branch, active in the advocacy of women's issues, women's education, social services and income generation.

The Society's membership has increased to 60 members. It has built up a field presence in 48 countries worldwide.

The Society is a member of the following regional and international bodies: International Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief (Cairo); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Rabat); Arab Network for NGOs (Cairo); International Islamic Charitable Organization (Kuwait); and Gulf Disability Society (Bahrain).

The Society is affiliated and has good relations with the Arab Gulf Fund for the United Nations Development Programme (AGFUND) and the Islamic Development Bank.

The Society had little relation with United Nations agencies before it was recognized by the Council in 1997 and by UNHCR in 1998. Since then the Society has held a number of working meetings with UNHCR in Geneva, Riyadh and Doha, which resulted in the following joint activities:

(a) A representative of the Society attended the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in March 1999 at Geneva;

(b) A framework agreement for operational partnership between UNHCR and the Society was signed in March 1999 at Geneva;

(c) The Society assisted the UNHCR shelter, water and sanitation projects for Chechen refugees and displaced persons in Ingushetia with an amount totalling US$ 600,500 during 1999-2000;

(d) The Society participated in funding UNICEF water and sanitation projects for Chechen displaced persons in Ingushetia with a total of US$ 250,000;

(e) A joint UNHCR and Qatar Charitable Society workshop on law for the protection of refugees was convened (Doha, 17-18 October 2000) and was attended by local non-governmental organizations and representatives from Kuwait and Bahrain non-governmental organizations;

(f) A cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Society was signed at Doha on 18 October 2000;

(g) Meetings were held between UNHCR and the Society's Kosovo office to work out joint project proposals for funding and joint implementation for the year 2001;

(h) The Society earmarked US$ 250,000 for continuing the water and sanitation services for the Chechen internally displaced persons;

(i) The Society allocated US$ 96,500 for the rehabilitation of the Barevo (Bosnia) village clinic and school, in response to a UNHCR appeal;

(j) A Society staff member, chosen by the UNHCR Riyadh office, attended a United Nations staff college training course in early warning and preventive measures (Dubai, September 2000);

(k) A Society representative participated in a workshop on building non-governmental organizations' capacities towards fulfilling and following up on the global conferences resolutions (Cairo, 19-21 September 2000), organized by ESCWA and the Arab League;

(l) The Society adviser attended the Social Summit and also participated in the Geneva 2000 Forum (Geneva, June 2000);

(m) The Society received an ESCWA consultant on social development.

The Society believes, that its endeavours to alleviate poverty and care for the needy, especially orphaned refugee children and widowed mothers, and to provide clean water, healthcare, emergency relief and education is nothing other than putting many United Nations resolutions into effect.

At present the Society is engaged in advocating networking with the internationally active Gulf non-governmental organizations, for which a preparatory committee was chosen, headed by the Society. Its secretariat is hosted by the Society.

34. Muslim World League

(General consultative status granted in 1979)

The Muslim World League (MWL-Rabita) is an international, Islamic and non-governmental organization, founded in 1962 and headquartered in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Saudi Arabia. Its aims and objectives are in general conformity to those of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council, in addition to the following:

(a) To disseminate Islamic Dawah and expound the teaching of Islam;

(b) To defend Islamic causes in a manner that safeguards the interests of Muslims, solves their problems and refutes allegation against Islam;

(c) To promote peace, cooperation and solidarity among mankind.

Accordingly, MWL-Rabita participates in and promotes United Nations activities in the fields related to international peace and harmony, human rights, education, health, social and scientific development, upholding of religious values, rendering relief to refugees and minorities, and prevention of racial discrimination.

To accomplish these goals in close cooperation with the United Nations and its main organs and specialized agencies, MWL-Rabita maintains permanent offices at the United Nations offices in New York, Geneva and Paris. Furthermore, MWI-Rabita's permanent representatives maintain cordial working relations on a regular basis with the United Nations Secretariat, the Council, UNICEF, UNDP and other United Nations bodies and agencies. Likewise MWL-Rabita representatives have always maintained good working relations with the delegations of member States and other non-governmental organization representatives.

MWL-Rabita representatives have regularly participated in United Nations conferences and symposia and attended the General Assembly sessions, and the Secretary-General has attended similar events convened elsewhere, including:

(a) World Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt, 13-15 September 1994);

(b) World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995);

(c) NGO Forum on Women (Beijing, 30 August-15 September 1995);

(d) Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995);

(e) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996);

(f) Millennium Summit for Religious Leaders and Peace (United Nations Headquarters, 28-31 August 2000).

The MWL representative actively participated in the following events held at United Nations Headquarters:

(a) Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women (13 March-5 April 1995);

(b) Fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (21-22 October 1995);

(c) Annual meeting of Non-governmental Committee of UNICEF (4 June 1998);

(d) Seminar of NGOs on the Palestine Issue, on the theme "50 years for homeless Palestinian people";

(e) Fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights (14-16 September 1998);

(f) Fifth annual coordination meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (1 October 1998);

(g) Forty-third meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 1999), for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference, as well as in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on women (5-9 June 2000);

(h) Special session held on the fringes of the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (15 March 1999) at which the status of women was expounded from an Islamic point of view, followed by a reading at the concluding session of a communiqué by MWL-Rabita;

(i) Fifty-second Conference of NGOs (15-17 September 1999), on the theme "Challenges of globalization";

(j) Celebration of the International Solidarity Day with Palestinian People (29-30 November 1999);

(k) United Nations Workshop on the Internet (29 March 2000);

(l) Ninth Annual Conference of World Information Transfer Inc. (26-28 April 2000), on the theme "The advent of the new millennium";

(m) Millennium Forum (22-26 May 2000);

(n) Twenty-third extraordinary session of the General Assembly (5-9 June 2000).

The MWL-Rabita representative distributed a documentary memorandum regarding Quds (Jerusalem) to the Secretary-General and to 51 senior United Nations officials and permanent representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations. He also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on women (5-9 June 2000).

35. Union internationale des avocats

(Special consultative status granted in 1971)

Aims and purposes

The Union internationale des avocats (UIA) is the oldest international organization constituted by bars, bar associations and law societies, known as "collective members", and lawyers, known as "individual members". UIA was formed in 1927, in Brussels, Belgium, and continues to exist under the original Belgian charter. UIA is both multicultural and multilingual. Approximately 300 bars, bar associations and law societies based in more than 100 countries throughout the world are collective members, who are representative of most of the world's legal systems and many of the world's languages. All of the major bars, bar associations and law societies of the world are active collective members. In addition, several thousand lawyers from throughout the world are individual members. UIA has six official languages (Arabic, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish) and three working languages (English, French and Spanish).

The primary aims and purposes of UIA include:

(a) To serve the interests of the people and the lawyers, and bars, bar associations and law societies which protect them;

(b) To promote the essential precepts of the work of the lawyer as the defender of the rights of citizens;

(c) To promote the development of jurisprudence in all fields of the law throughout the world;

(d) To take part in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations;

(e) To establish at an international level permanent relations and exchanges between bar associations and law societies and their members;

(f) To defend the interests of members of the legal profession;

(g) To study, develop, and improve the organization and administration of the legal profession.

Since 1971, when special status was granted, UIA has contributed to the activities of the United Nations, including the work of the Council, and is a member of the Advisory Councils for the International Criminal Court and the two ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals.

The UIA has 43 permanent commissions, subcommissions and working groups, dealing with all practice areas. The work of most of the commissions and working groups of UIA is related in some way to activities of the United Nations.

Activities

UIA organizes and holds an annual Congress at locations around the world. In addition, throughout the year, UIA, solely or in cooperation with one or more entities, organizes a number of forums, programmes, seminars and other events. At each Congress, there is one main theme on one of three important issues: human rights, business law, and the legal profession. There are major addresses and discussions during plenary sessions. In recent years, United Nations-related topics, including those related to the Council and human rights and social topics, were discussed:

1994	Precedents and practical experiences with the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods International human rights institutions in 1994
1995	Human rights and biotechnology
1996	Rights of the defence, Confidentiality and professional secrecy Justice and the media (freedom of speech and the right to defence) Children's rights of defence A decade of human rights at the United Nations
1997	The role of the lawyer in the defence of human rights
1998	The presumption of innocence Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1999	Legal aspects of electronic commerce, the role of international and domestic courts in the defence and protection of human rights
2000	Competing international jurisdictions in the field of international crimes Significance of the United Nations International Sales Convention

In recent years, UIA has been engaged in human rights and social activities throughout the world:

Missions

1994	Mission of observation to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
1995	Mission to Jerusalem
1996	Mission to Beirut
1999	Mission to the International Criminal Tribunal of the Hague and Arusha Mission to Rwanda

Resolutions

1994	Resolution on the lawyer, peace and development
1995	Resolution regarding the Permanent International Criminal Court

1999	Resolution on children's rights Resolution on Algeria
2000	Resolution on the independence of the bars in Malaysia
2001	Resolution about the defence rights in Tunisia

In addition, commissions and working groups of UIA held meetings on topics relevant to the activities and work of the United Nations:

1994	The Rule of Law, the Lawyer and the Protection of the Citizen's Rights (Lisbon, Portugal) Transnational Negotiation and Arbitration: the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods (New York)
1995	Faith, Law and Peace (Jerusalem, Israel) Minorities' Rights against Racism and Xenophobia (Valence, Spain) International Sale of Goods and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Vienna, Austria)
1996	Remand in Custody in Europe (Milan, Italy)
1997	International Criminal and Civil Jurisdictions (Fés, Morocco)
1998	Protection of Employees: the Institutional Framework of the Social Dialogue (Istanbul, Turkey)
1999	The Globalization of the Profession in the Southern Countries (Agadir, Morocco) The World Trade Organization and the Business Lawyer (Beirut, Lebanon) The Rights of Defenders in International Jurisdictions (Paris, France) Defence in International Criminal Law (Geneva, Switzerland)
2000	The Globalization of the Lawyer's Profession: the Multimedia Challenge (Paris, France) Professional Confidentiality in the European Union: the Directive on Money Laundering (Porto, Portugal)

In addition to its congresses, forums, programmes, seminars, and other activities, UIA has organized three full-day briefings for the President of the UIA collective members, special representatives of the UIA collective members and other leaders of the profession from throughout the world. The briefings were held in New York at United Nations Headquarters (8 September 1997, 11 December 1998, and 7 July 2000). The third briefing was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Bar Association and a special meeting of the Australian Bar Association, held in New York. During the briefings, presentations were made by senior officials of the United Nations, including the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for External Affairs, and senior members of the Office of Legal Affairs.

UIA and the United Nations

The relations between UIA and the United Nations are overseen and coordinated by the UIA Deputy Secretary-General. UIA has at least two active representatives to the United Nations in each of the principal venues — New York, Geneva and Vienna. One representative is a local resident whose task is to liaise regularly, and the other representative is a person holding high office in the Union.

UIA has sought and seeks to be of service to the United Nations and components of the United Nations system, including the Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and to encourage and facilitate the relations of its collective members with the United Nations and components of the system.

UIA has responded to a number of requests emanating from the United Nations, and received and studied many reports emanating from the Organization, particularly from the Commission on Human Rights, with which the UIA Commissions on Human Rights and on the Defence of the Defence are closely involved, and from the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, with which many of the UIA Commissions are involved.

The UIA special representative to the Commission on Human Rights attended its annual sessions and addressed it. In addition, the Special Representative was in frequent contact with members of the United Nations staff in Geneva. During 1994-1995, the then-President of UIA addressed the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights. In association with the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, among others, UIA was frequently involved in issues around the world involving human rights.

UIA has had close and warm ongoing relations with UNCITRAL, including close liaison with its Secretary and Senior Legal Officer. Some UIA commercial law-related Commissions have been and, on an ongoing basis, are involved with the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Since 1995, a former UIA President has represented UIA at each annual UNCITRAL session. For many years, the Secretary of the Commission, or his representative, has attended the annual UIA Congress and has addressed meetings of leaders of bars, bar associations and law societies from around the world organized by UIA. A number of joint projects between the UIA and UNCITRAL are under consideration.

In 1995, as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the American Bar Association, UIA and the International Bar Association jointly sponsored a formal dinner at United Nations Headquarters. The UIA President attended and addressed the guests.

UIA was well represented at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China, 1996), and subsequent meetings.

36. Arab Organization for Human Rights

(Special consultative status granted in 1989)

Aims and purposes

The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) was founded in 1983 as a non-governmental organizations which, as defined by its statute, works for the defence, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Arab region, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights treaties and conventions.

AOHR's scope of activities extends to individual and collective civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. It also aims at raising public awareness regarding legal and civil rights.

In 1990, it attained observer status with the Organization of African Unity's Commission for Human and People's Rights. In May 2000, AOHR signed a headquarters' agreement with the Government of Egypt as an international and regional organization based in Cairo.

AOHR's budget is based on membership fees, donations, and interest from its deposits. It does not accept donations from political movements or from Governments, in order to maintain its credibility in the Arab world.

Participation in the work of the Council

Between 1997 and 2000, AOHR attended the fifty-third, fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and made oral interventions under items 9, 4, 8, 10, 11 of its agenda. It attended the eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-second, twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first meetings of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva); the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the UNHCR; Executive Committee meetings of non-governmental organizations; the fourteenth United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine (1997); the Special Committee of International NGOs on Human Rights (Geneva, 1998, 1999 and 2000); sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997-2000, Geneva); sessions of the Commission on Human Rights Working Group on a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (2-13 February 1998 and January 1999, Geneva); meetings of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (February and August 1998); the Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, June 1998); the Symposium on Islam and Human Rights (Geneva, August 1998); the Paris Meeting for Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 1998); the Conference of the High Contracted Parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention (15 July 1999); the fifty-second session of the World Health Organization; the Seminar on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Abidjan, March 1998); and the seminar commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of UNHCR (Geneva, November 2000).

Between 1997 and 2000, the work of AOHR was oriented towards the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, with special attention to development and human rights. AOHR, in cooperation with UNDP and UNHCHR, AOHR organized, in June 1999, the Seminar on Human Rights and Development, held in Cairo, with wide participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians, academics and experts in the Arab region. The Seminar produced a Programme of Action for promoting the integration of human rights with development and the role of non-governmental organizations in its implementation. In order to raise awareness on the subject, a three-year project, at the regional and the national levels, has been negotiated between AOHR, UNDP and UNHCHR, and will be signed in 2001. AOHR will be the executing agency of the project.

The Secretary-General of AOHR was selected by UNDP, to be a member of the Advisory Panel to the *Human Development Report 2000*, on human rights and human development.

AOHR was selected, in 2000, by the UNHCHR, to be a member of the Preparatory Committee for the NGO Forum to be held in parallel with the World Conference against Racism (Durban, South Africa, August 2001). Furthermore, AOHR was requested, by the Preparatory Committee, to organize an Asian/Arab regional meeting in Amman, Jordan, in February 2001.

The Arab Institute for Human Rights was created by AOHR, the Arab Lawyers Union, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, UNESCO and the Tunisian League for Human Rights.

During the period 1997-2000, AOHR continued, with the Arab Institute for Human Rights, the Arab Lawyers Union, the United Nations, and Huridocs, the efforts aimed at establishing the Arab Network for Information and Documentation on Human Rights (AHRINET) as an effective instrument to Arab organizations working in the field of human rights.

AOHR, through its publications and seminars, has raised awareness of issues that are of concern both regionally and internationally. Its programme of action closely follows the recommendations of the competent bodies of the United Nations. In that respect, AOHR has:

(a) Organized a series of seminars and symposia dealing with the pressing debates and discourses on human rights. The subjects covered included human rights in Islam, Israeli war crimes against Arab prisoners of war and civilians, poverty in the era of globalization, the international impact of the Arab movement for Human Rights, the new draft project of law concerning the establishment of civil associations in Egypt, the establishment of an International Criminal Court, intellectual and academic freedoms, human rights development, the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, the future of democracy in the Arab region, and the protection of human rights activists;

(b) Issued a monthly newsletter in Arabic and a brief in English to review human rights issues and violations in Arab countries, the activities of local and international human rights groups, and significant events in the field of human rights, particularly United Nations activities;

(c) Produced an annual report on the situation of human rights in the Arab World, in Arabic with English translation of its introduction;

(d) Produced a biannual publication *Cases of Human Rights* which includes research on problems related to human rights;

(e) Issued statements and declarations on pressing issues and violations of human rights.

Finally, AOHR's plan for the next few years is to implement, in cooperation with UNHCHR and UNDP, the programme under discussion, aiming at the integration of human rights with development, which includes the issuing of the first Arabic manual on human rights and development; continue its campaign to invite all Arab States to join international legality by adhering, without reservations, to the International Conventions on Human Rights; launch a one-year campaign, in cooperation with the Arab Journalists Union and the Arab Lawyers Union, for the freedom of the press in the Arab region; and continue its participation in United Nations activities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

37. International Commission of Jurists

(Special consultative status granted in 1957)

The activities of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in the four years 1997-2000 have continued to be directed towards promoting the observance, respect for and implementation of human rights under the rule of law, activities relating to the violations of human rights, and international standard-setting.

A great number of activities concerning the promotion and protection of human rights and the observance of the rule of law have taken place within the United Nations, pursuant to the consultative status enjoyed by ICJ with the Council. They have included making reports and oral and written interventions, lobbying governmental delegates and members of United Nations bodies in support of proposals put forward and attending United Nations Committee meetings.

The subjects covered have included the World Summit on Social Development; indigenous populations; principles for the protection of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment; enforced or involuntary disappearances; administrative detention; the elimination of racial discrimination; economic, social and cultural rights; human rights defenders; establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court; World Conference against Racism, elaboration of a set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity, draft basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of violations of human rights, and international humanitarian law and other situations of human rights violations.

Activities relevant to the work of the Council

Establishment of an International Criminal Court

The establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) has been a key objective of ICJ for many years, and a number of activities were undertaken to lobby support and mobilize public opinion in this respect. In 1998, ICJ organized a joint round-table discussion in Geneva on Human Rights and International Criminal Prosecution: The Road to Rome. ICJ also hosted a meeting for the Steering

Committee of the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court, which explored the practical arrangements for the Rome conference and the non-governmental organization strategy. Three briefing papers were prepared for the Rome conference. The ICJ's representative addressed the plenary conference, stating that the ICC should have jurisdiction over the three core crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. ICJ issued a brief assessment of the Rome Statute. In April 1999 a round-table discussion was organized to answer the questions relating to the aftermath of the Rome conference.

Follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development/Geneva 2000 Forum

ICJ participated actively in the special session of the General Assembly and the Geneva 2000 Forum, organized by the Swiss Government.

Indigenous populations

ICJ presented to the Commission on Human Rights in March 1999 the conclusions and recommendations of its mission to Mexico concerning the situation of human rights, with particular focus on the situation faced by indigenous communities in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca. ICJ also distributed a document on the existing discrimination against indigenous and black people in Peru to members of the Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Working Group on Drafting a Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

ICJ participated actively in the Working Group. It welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders and the appointment of the Special Rapporteur.

Economic, social and cultural rights

In October 1998, ICJ, together with its section in Colombia, organized a seminar in Medellin on economic, social and cultural rights. The seminar focused on subjects such as the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the justiciability of those rights. In 1999 ICJ organized a workshop on the draft optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, under the auspices of UNHCHR. Follow-up activities were organized later in the year, and a second workshop will be organized in February 2001. In 1997, ICJ published a compilation of essential documents on economic, social and cultural rights. It submitted a written statement to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session, on "Human rights in the context of globalization". It made an oral intervention to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, urging States to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Rights of the child

In December 1999, ICJ organized a seminar in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on state reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, with special focus on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Rapporteur of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Chairperson and Secretary of the Covenant attended the seminar as resource persons. In January 2000, ICJ made video recordings of the proceedings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, along with interviews of the members of the Committee. The video record

will be used as a training tool to familiarize Governments and non-governmental organizations alike on the working of the Committee in the Asia/Pacific region.

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

In May 1998, ICJ sent a letter to the Chairman of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced Disappearances concerning disappearances during the military dictatorship in Chile. ICJ was closely involved in the elaboration of a draft international convention on the protection of all persons from forced disappearance of the Subcommission's Working Group on Administration of Justice. In October 2000, ICJ organized a meeting addressed to the diplomatic missions in Geneva on the draft convention. In November 2000, ICJ submitted its comments on the draft convention to UNHCHR.

Administration of justice/independence of the judiciary and protection of lawyers

The ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session the preliminary findings of the CIJL's annual report, *Attacks on Justice*. In August 1998, two statements were delivered before the session of the Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation on the subject of the proposed universal convention against forced disappearances. ICJ also delivered to the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fiftieth session a statement on the administration of justice in Peru and Tunisia. In August 2000, ICJ asked the Working Group on the Administration of Justice to start a study on the administration of justice in the military court.

Gross and systematic violations of human rights

On many occasions ICJ made oral and written interventions of situations with which it has been concerned, particularly to the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission (6-10 interventions per session).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia

ICJ delivered oral interventions at the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, to support the High Commissioner's report on Colombia and on the work of her office in Bogotá.

Right to reparation

During the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ hosted two meetings on basic principles on reparation. A compilation of essential documents, "The right to reparation for victims of human rights violations", was published. It comprised, inter alia, the draft principles that were prepared by the Subcommission's former Special Rapporteur.

Impunity of human rights violations

In 1997 and 1998, ICJ contributed to the elaboration of the Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through action to combat impunity, adopted by the Subcommission. At the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ organized a meeting on the Set of Principles.

World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination

ICJ participated actively in the ad hoc meetings in preparation of the forthcoming Conference which will be held in August 2001 in South Africa.

Diffusion of the jurisprudence of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

In 2000, ICIJ presented the *Amicus Curiae* and legal briefs before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the courts and authorities of Colombia, Peru and Argentina, explaining the jurisprudence and doctrine of the treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights regarding impunity and the right to reparation.

Information

ICJ publishes an annual *Review* (in English, French and Spanish), an annual *CIJL Yearbook* in English, an annual report entitled "Attacks on Justice: The Harassment and Persecution of Judges and Lawyers" in English, and a quarterly report in English.

These contain as a regular feature reports of meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, the Human Rights Committee and of other United Nations meetings. Important United Nations documents are reproduced in full or in summary in the category "Basic texts" of the *ICJ Review* or as appendices to the *CIJL Yearbook*.

38. International Federation of Building and Wood Workers

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

The International Federation of Building and Wood Workers (IFBWW) is an international trade union secretariat, established in 1934 by a merger of the Building Workers International and Wood Workers International. The International Secretariat of Stone Masons, the International Secretariat of Painters and Allied Trades, and the International Secretariat of Bricklayers have all subsequently joined the Federation.

IFBWW seeks to unite and represent all free and democratic trade unions in the building, wood, forestry and allied industries. It cooperates with the European and Nordic Federations of Building and Wood Workers and with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). It promotes the principles of international solidarity and is an active defender of human and trade union rights. IFBWW conducts activities in the field of workers' education and trade union development, coordinates international solidarity actions, carries out research on a wide range of industrial issues, represents its affiliates' interests at world meetings and conferences, has women's and youth programmes, and works to combat child labour.

The headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland. Regional Offices are in Panama for Latin America, Zimbabwe for Africa and Malaysia for Asia and Pacific. Sub-regional and Education Offices are located in Burkina Faso, Japan, Australia and India. In the Philippines (Quezon City), there is the IFBWW Philippine Affiliated Program Office (IPAPO), in Lebanon (Beirut), there is the IFBWW Middle East Project Office, in Bulgaria (Sofia) there is the IFBWW Balkans Project Office.

IFBWW currently groups over 11 million members in 283 trade unions in 124 countries.

IFBWW is an officially recognized non-governmental organization for the building, wood, forestry and allied sectors within the International Labour Organization. It promotes its policy in international organizations such as the ILO, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), international environmental organizations, and regional and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

IFBWW played a lead role in discussions on and preparations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work. The Code was adopted on 30 September 1997 by an ILO meeting of experts on safety and health in forest work.

From 17 to 26 January 2000, in an effort to ensure higher international health and safety standards in the use of mineral fibres, IFBWW participated in the development and adoption by the ILO of a code of practice in the use of synthetic vitreous fibre insulation wools (glass wool, rock wool, slag wool).

IFBWW attended sessions of the ILO and in recent years played an active role in discussions on contract labour and maternity protection. A member of the secretariat staff participated in the Meeting of Experts on Situations Requiring Protection, in May 2000.

IFBWW also implemented a range of technical cooperation projects with the support of the ILO and also supported affiliates participating in large-scale ILO programmes. IFBWW will attend the following ILO sectoral meetings for both construction and forestry during 2001: Tripartite Meeting on the Social and Labour Dimensions of the Forestry and Woods Industries on the Move (17-21 September), and Tripartite Meeting on the Construction Industry in the 21st Century: Its Image, Employment Prospects and Skill Requirements (10-14 December).

IFBWW attended the following meetings in the reporting period:

(a) Sixteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (Nairobi, 4-16 April 1997);

(b) Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 11-25 April 1997 and 19-30 April 1999);

(c) Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 3-21 March 1997);

(d) FAO Committee on Forestry (Rome, 3-13 March 1997);

(e) FAO Eleventh World Forestry Congress (Antalya, 10-22 October 1997);

(f) NGO Workshop on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (Geneva, 26 June 1998);

(g) Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (Geneva, 24 August to 4 September 1998, 3-13 May 1999, and New York, 31 January to 11 February 2000);

(h) United Nations Seminar on Trade-related Aspects of Sustainable Management (Geneva, 23-25 February 1999);

(i) FAO Committee on Forestry (Rome, 1-5 March 1999);

(j) Fifteenth World Congress on Occupational Safety and Health (Sao Paolo, 12-16 April 1999);

(k) International Tropical Timber Organization Council meeting (Changmai, 21-25 May 1999, and Peru, 24-30 May 2000);

(l) AUVA/ILO Health and Safety in the Construction Industry in the 21st Century (Vienna, 6-8 October 1999);

(m) Twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Social Summit+5) (26-30 June 2000).

39. World Evangelical Fellowship

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) is a global network of 114 national and regional evangelical church alliances, 96 organizational ministries and six specialized ministries with a service constituency of approximately 160 million. In the 1990s WEF positioned itself as the pre-eminent church-based Evangelical organization in the world. WEF members, such as the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) have spearheaded work in relief and development, church planting, leadership development, evangelism, and human rights within their nations and regions. The WEF International Council, the highest decision-making body, has representatives from all over the world, primarily from developing countries in the "two thirds" world.

Participation in the work of the Council

WEF has been an active participant in United Nations meetings, presenting oral statements, providing information to experts, members and the Secretariat, and cooperating with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

WEF took part, as indicated, in the following recent meetings:

(a) Preparatory Committee for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (1-5 May 2000, Geneva);

(b) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-second session (31 July-18 August 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on human rights and fundamental freedoms; elimination of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief; and minorities;

(c) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-sixth session (20 March-28 April 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on civil and political rights; human rights and fundamental freedoms; and minorities;

(d) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, fifty-first session (2-27 August 1999, Geneva): oral statements made on violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(e) Working Group on Minorities, forty-first session (25-31 May 1999).

WEF facilitated the setting-up and running of an office in Geneva to liaise with the United Nations. The full-time representative provided briefings, organized

meetings, furnished information and liaised with United Nations working groups, rapporteurs and treaty monitoring bodies established under the Council in both Geneva and New York. In addition she provided information for General Assembly deliberations and liaised with and furnished information to other United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and WHO. WEF worked actively on the following thematic mandates of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: special rapporteurs on intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; torture; right to food; right to adequate housing; freedom of opinion and expression; sale of children; child prostitution and child pornography; impact of armed conflict on children; elimination of violence against women; special representative on internally displaced persons, and on the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention, Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Minorities and Transnational Corporations.

WEF has been instrumental in establishing, through the Council, pathways of peace and dialogue and openings for reconciliation. Through the relationships it helped to establish, constructive and far-reaching discussions and programmes have been set in place to promote greater understanding and religious and racial harmony. WEF's Commission on Women's Concerns is active in promoting the social and economic progress of women, and WEF as a whole serves to ease interreligious tensions by promoting better understanding and bridge-building. Its function as the worldwide representative body for 160 million Evangelicals places it in a pivotal position to accomplish those objectives and WEF values the cooperation with the Economic and Social Council in doing so.

In April 2000 WEF's legal adviser was actively engaged in the adoption of a resolution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on restorative justice, in conjunction with another non-governmental organization with consultative status, Prison Fellowship International. In addition, the adviser organized the Rule of Law Forum at the United Nations in New York City as a vehicle for diplomats to meet informally and to discuss human rights, conflict resolution and ethics.